

The Most Delectable

HISTORY O F Reynard the Fox.

Newly Corrected and Purged, from all grossness
in Phrase and Matter.

Augmented and Enlarged with sundry Excellent
Morals and Expositions upon every several Chapter.

To which may now be added a Second Part of the said History:
As also the Shifts of Reynardine the Son of Reynard the FOX,
Together with his Life and Death, &c.



LONDON, Printed by Tho. James, for Edward Brewster, at the
Sign of the Crane in St. Pauls Church-Yard. 1694.



The Epistle to the Reader.

THOU hast here (courteous and friendly Reader) the pleasant and delightful History of *Reynard the Fox*, which in an humble and low stile (couched to the natures of Beasts it treateth on) beareth in it much excellent Morality and hidden Wisdom, worthy both thy regard in the reading, and thine application in the course and commerçement of thy Life and Actions: for, the aim at which it bendeth, is the overthrow of Vice, and the advancement of the Good and Virtuous.

Now, forasmuch as hitherto it hath flown into the World (like *Sybila's loose Papers*) covered with much obscurity and darkness: I have for thy more ease and con-

The Epistle to the Reader.

tentment, to every several Chapter, annexed the Morals and Expositions of such dark places, as may hold thy Judgment, in seeking to find out a Labyrinth so dark and curious. A labour, which I doubt not but it will prove both pleasant and wholesome, since as a friendly Guide it will keep thy meditations from wandering astray; and as a pleasant Companion, hold thee with such delightful discourse, that thy Journey therein will neither be long nor irksome therein; at which End, if it arrive with a fair safety, as it is faithfully and truly intended, I have the sum of my wishes, and thy self the prosperity, both of this, and other mens Endeavours.

Farewell.



The Pleasant.

HISTORY OF REYNARD the FOX.

CHAP. I.

How the Lyon Proclaimed a Solemn Feast at his Court, and how *Jgrim* the Wolf and his Wife, and *Curtise* the Hound, made their Complaints of *Reynard* the FOX.



BEFORE the Feast of Pentecost (which is commonly called Whitsontide) when the Woods are in their lusty-hood and gallantry, and every Tree cloathed in the green and white Liberty of gloriuous leaves, and sweet smelling blossoms; and the earth covered in her fairest Mantle of Flowers, which the Birds with much joy entertain with the delight of their harmonious songs.

Even at this time and entrance of the lusty Spring, the Lyon the Royal King of Beasts, to celebrate this holy Feaste-time with all triumphant ceremony, intends to keep open Court at his great Palace of Sanden; and to that end (by so-

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(lemon Proclamation) makes known over all his Kingdon to all beasts whatsoever, that upon pain to be held contempnous, every one should resort to that great celebrazation; so that within few days after (at the time p[re]fixed) all Beasts both great and small, came in infinite multitudes to the Court, only Reynard the Fox excepted, who knew himself guilty in so many trespasses against many Beasts, that his coming thither must needs have put his life in great hazard and danger.



Now when the King had assembled all his Court together, there were few Beasts found, but made their several complaints against the Fox: but especially Segrim the Wolf, who being the first and principal complainant, came with all his lineage and kindred, and standing before the King, said in this manner:

My dread and dearest Sovereign Lord the King, I humbly beseech you, that from the height and strength of your great power, and the multitude of your mercies, you will be pleased to take pity on the great trespasses and unsufferable injuries which

of Reynard the F O X.



which that unworthy creature Reynard the Fox hath done to me, my wife, and our whole family: of which to give your Highness some tast, know (if it please your Majesty) that this Reynard came into my house by violence, and against the will of my wife, where finding my Children laid in my quiet couch, he so be-pist them in so rank a manner, that with the Sharpness of his Urine they fell instantly blind: for this offence a day was set and appointed, wherein Reynard should come to excuse himself, and to take a solemn Oath that he was guileless of that high injury: but as soon as the Book was tendred before him (he that well knew his own guiltiness) refused to swear, and ran instantly into his hole, both in contempt of your Majesty and your Laws: This (my dread Lord) may not the noblest Beasts know more bold in which now are resident in your Court: For hath this alone bounded his malice, but in many other things he hath trespasses against me, which to relate, neither the time nor your Highness patience, would give suffurance thereunto: suffice it, mine injuries are so great, that none can exceed them, and the shame and villany he hath done to my wife is such, that

The Moral.

Howsoever a vicious man festing himself from the presence of the Magistrate; yet he deceives himself & by contempt animates his enemies to be their peers herein.

that I can never bide nor suffer it warengel, but I must expect from him amends, and from your Majestie mercy. When the Wolf had spoken these words, there stood by him a little Hound whose name was Curte, who stepping forth, made likewise a grievous complaint (unto the King) against the Fox, saying, that in the extrem cold season of the winter, when the frost was most violent, he being half starved and de-



tained from all manner of prey, had no more meat left him to sustain his life, than one pooz Pudding, which Pudding (he said) Reynard had most unjustly taken from him.

But

of Reynard the FOX.

But the Hound could hardly let these words fly from his lips, when with a fieri and angry countenance, in sprang Tibert the Cat amongst them, and falling down before the King, said, My Lord the King, I must confess the Fox is here grievously complained upon: yet were other Beasts actions searched, each would have enough to do for his own clearing.

Touching the complaint of Curte the hound, it was an offence committed many years ago: and though I my self complain of no injury, yet was the Pudding mine, and not his: for I got it by night out of a Mill when the Miller lay asleep: so that if Curte could challenge any share thereof, it must be from mine interest.

When Panther heard these words of the Cat, he stood forth and said, Do you imagine Tibert, that it were a just or a good course that Reynard should not be complained upon? why the whole World knows he is a murthere, a rabiisher, and a thief, and that indeed he loveth not truly any Creature, no not his Majestie himself, but would suffer his bigness to lose both Honour and Renown, so that he might thereby attain to himself but so much as the leg of a fat hen: I shall tell you what I saw him do yesterday to Kayward the Hare, that now standeth in the Kings Presence: he promised unto Kayward that he would teach him his Credo, and make him a good Chaplain; he made him come sit between his legs, and sing and cry aloud Credo, Credo, my way lay thereby, and I heard the song: then coming nearer, I found that Mr. Reynard had left his first note and song, and began to play his old deceit: for he had caught Kayward by the throat, and had not at that time come, he had taken his life also, as you may see by the fresh wound on Kayward at this present. O my Lord the King, if you suffer this unpunished, and let him go quit that hath thus broken your peace, and prophaned your dignity, and doing no right according to the judgment of your Laws, your Princely children, many years hereafter, shall bear the slander of his evill. Certainly Panther (said Segrim) you say true, and it is fit they receive the benefit of Justice, that desire to live in peace.

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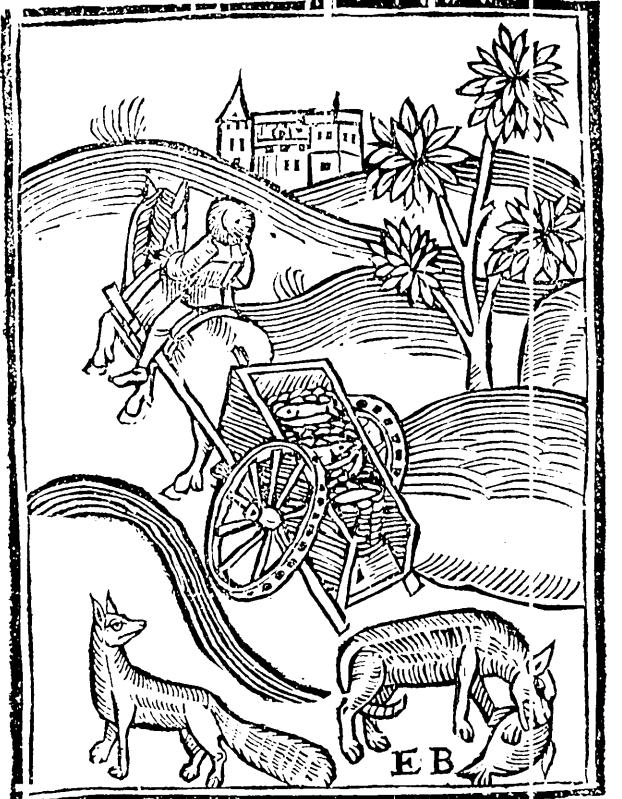
CHAP.

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C H A P. II.

How *Grimbard the Brock* spake for *Reynard*, before the KING.

Then spake Grimbarde the Brock (that was Reynards sisters Son) being much moved with anger, Isegrim, you are malicious, and it is a common Proverb, Mal ce never



of *Reynard the FOX*.

spake well, what can you say against my kinsman Reynard? The Moral-
I would you durst adventure, that which of you had most in- Vice is never
jured one another, might die the death, and be hanged as a fel- without his ed-
lton: I tell you, were he here in the Court, and as much in be a man never
the Kings favour as you are, it would be too little satis- so lewd yet he
faction for you to ask mercy: you have many times bitten shall find
and torn my kinsman with your venomous teeth, and much to plead for
ostner then I can reckon; yet some I will call up to my re- him, especially
membrance. where there
is either

Have you forgot how you cheated him with the Plaice greatness or
which he threw down from the Cart, when you followed a wealth in the
look for fear? yet you devoured the good Plaice alone, and gave offender, or
him no more but the great bones, which you could not eat any alliance of
your self: the like you did with the fat Kitch of Bacon, whose in favour: as
taste was so good, that your self alone did eat it up; and when appears here
my Uncle asked his part, you answered him with scorn, which pleads
Fair young man thou shalt have thy share; but he got not any for the Fox;
thing, albeit ye won the Bacon with greate fear and hazard; first because he
for the owner came and caught my kinsman in a Sack, from was of his kin,
whence he hardly escaped with life: many of those injuries and next he
hath Isegrim done to Reynard, which I beseech your Lordships was rich, and
judge if these be sufferable: again, he complaineth that my able to plea-
kinsman hath wronged him in his wife: 'tis true, and I con- se him: last-
fess Reynard hath lien with her; yet it was seven years be- ly, here is to
fore Isegrim did wed her: and if my Uncle out of courtesie did the insinuation
her a pleasure, what was that to him: he was soon healed of of the advo-
her soze: nor ought he to complain of any thing not belonging cate, excusing
to him; wisdom would have concealed it; for what credit the Fox's faults
gets he by the slander of his wife, especially when she is not with a new
grieved?

Now comes Kayward the Hare with his complaint, which sooner brings a
to me seems but a triffe: for if he will learn to read, and read good man to
not his lesson aright, who will blame the School-master Rey- belief and for-
nard if he give him due correction: for if Scholars be not beaten and chastised, they will never learn. givents.

Lastly complaineth Curtise, that he with great pain had gotten

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otten a Pudding in the Window, being a season in which vi-
tuals are hard; me-thinks silence would have become
him better, for he had stoln it: and Malequisisti, & made per-
didisti, 'tis st it was evil lost, it was evil won; who can blame
Reynard to take stoln goods from a thief? It is reason that
he which understands the Law, and can discern right, being
of great and high birth, as my knyfman is, do right unto the
Law; Nay, had he hanged up Curisse when he took him in
that maner, he had offended none but the King, in deing
Justice without leave; wherefore for respect to his Majestie
he did it not, though he reap little thanks for his labou': alas
how do those complaints hurt him: mine Uncle is a Gentle-
man, and a true man: no: can he endure falsoode: he doth no-
thing without the council of the Priest: and I affirm, since
my Lord the King proclaimed his peace, he never sought
to hurt any man: for he eateth but once a day, he live b as a
Recluse, he chastiseth his body, and weareth a shirt of hair-
cloth: it is a year since he eat any fleshe (as I have bee truly
informed by them that came but yesterday from him) he
hath forsaken his Castle Malcador, and abandoned all Ro-
yalty, a poore Hermitage retains him: hunting he bath for-
swozen, and his wealth he hath scattered, living only b alms
and good mens charities. Doing infinite penance for b sins,
so that he is become pale and lean with praying and fasting,
for he would fain be with God.

Thus wh-ll Grimbard his Nephew stod Preaching,
they perceive coming down the hill unto them, stout Chante-
cleer the Cock, who brought upon a Bier, a dead Hen, of
whom Reynard had bitten off the head, and it was brought to
the King to have knowledg thereof.

C H A P. III.

*Chantecler the Cock complained of Reynard
the F O X.*

CHANTECLEER marched foremost, smote pitously his
hands & feathers,whilst on the other side the Pie, went
two

of Reynard the F O X,



two sorrowful Hens, the one was Coppel the other the good
Hen Cragant, being two of the fairest Hens between Holland
and Arden: these Hens boze each of them a straight bright
burning taper, and these Hens were sister to Coppel (which
lay dead on the Bier) and in the marching they cried,
Alack, alack and well-a-day for the death of Coppel our
dear

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The Morall. Dear sister, Two young Hens bare the Wier, which cackled so heavily, and wept so loud for the death of Coppe their mother, that the hills gave an echo to their clamour: thus being come before the King, Chantecler kneeling down, spake strong hand, or violence against their enemies: then

Most merciful and my great Lord the King, vouchsafe, I they stude de beseech you to hear our complaint, and redres these injuries etcs and shitts which Reynard hath uniusly done to me, and my chi dzen, that to entangle here stand weeping; for so it is (most mighty Sir) hat in the them: of all beginning of April, when the weather was fair I being which none is so powerful, as then at the height of my pride and glory, because o' the great the shew of stock and lineage I came of, and also in that I had eight valiant soz, and seven fair daughters, which my wife had hatch Religion: for that working ed, all which were strong and fat, and walked in a yard well upon the eche walled, and fenced round about where in they had in several belief of the temples, makes sheds for their guard six stout Mastiff Dogs, which had them many torn the Skins of many wild Beasts, so that my children times ship feared not any evl whch might happen unto them: But themselves into the rough Reynard, that false and diuers living Craytor, entyng their happy fortune because of their safety, many times assailed the Seas, whence there is no walls, and gave such dangerous assaults, that the Dogs di help, but ship wrack, as the foulish Cook did to believe the subtile Fox. Also in this a man may see, that though an divers times were let forth unto him, and hunted him away; yea, once they light upon him, and bit him, and made him pay the price of his theft, as his torn skin witnesseth; yet nevertheless he escaped, the moe was the pity; yet we were quiet of his trouble a great while after; at last he came in the like-ness of a Hermit, and brought me a letter to read, Sealed with your Majesties Seal, in which I found written, that evil man may be new and your Highnes had made peace throughout all your Realm, then excused of some faults to another; affirming unto me, that soz his own part he was yet still he shall become a Monk or Cloystered Ecluse, vowing to perform not escape being discovered, a daily penance for his sins: laying unto me his Beads, his Books, and the bare shirt next to his skin: laying in humble wise unto me: Sir Chantecler, never henceforth be affraid of me, soz I have vowed never meze to eat flesh.

I am

of Reynard the FOX.



I am now wared old, and would only remember my soul: therefore I take my leave: for I have yet my noon and my even-song to say: which spake, he departed, saying his Credo as he went, and layed him down under a Hawthorn: at this I was exceeding glad, that I took no heed, but went and clocked my children together and walked without the Wall: which

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which I shall ever rue: for false Reynard lying under a bush, came creeping betwixt us and the gate, and suddenly surprised one of my children, which he thrust up in his mail, and bore away to my great sorrow, for having tasted the swariness of our flesh, neither hunter nor hound can protest or kēp him from us: Night and day he waits upon us with that greediness, that of fifteen of my children, he hath left but four un-slaughtered; and yesterday Coppel my daughter (which here lieth dead on the Ber) was after her mother by a Bearne of Hounds rescued from him. This is my complaint, and this I leave to your Highness mercy to take pity of me, and the loss of my fair children.

The Kings answer to the Cocks complaint: and how they sung the Dirge.

To Moral.

Then spake the King, Sir. Grimbard, bear you this of your Uncle the Recuse? he hath fested and prayed well: we well believe it, if I live a year, he shall dearly abide it: as so see how such offences return you Chanteclear, your complaint is heard, and shall be cured: to disgrace, be your daughter that is dead, we will give her the ḡt burial, cause evill mens and with solemn Virge bring her to the earth with wōvices being ship; which done, we will consult with our Lo;ds, how to disclosed, ex- do you right and justice against the murtherer. Then be shames that gan the Placido Domine, with all the verses belonging to it, make them: which are too many to recite: and as soon as the Virge was as it happened done, the body was interred, and upon it a fair marble stone now to the laid, being polished as bright as glass: in which was in Brock. Also in graven in great letters this inscription following, COPPEL the Lion may be seen the e- Chantecleers daughter, whom Reynard the Fox hath slain, lieth effects of a good here buried; Mourn thou that Readest it: For her Death disposition, was unjust and lamentable. After this, the King sent for which is exprest his Lords and wises Councilloz, to consult how this foul in the honours and rights of Reynarde might be punished. In the end it was concluded that Reynard should be sent for, and without all excuse to appear before the King, to answer the trespasses that is a satisfaction

of Reynard the FOX.



delivered by Bruin the Bear: to all this the King gave consent, and calling him before him, said, Sir Bruin, it is our pleasure that you deliver this message, yet in the delivery thereof have great regard to your self: for Reynard is full of policy, and knoweth how to dissemble, flatter and betray; he hath a world of

for the grief her kin endured. In the Bear's willingness to fetch the Fox, is exprest how apt a malicious nature is to be employed in any thing that may offend his adversary, and how commonly such employments miscarry.

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of snares to entangle you withal, and without great exercise of judgment, will make a scorn and mock of the best wisdom breathing. My Lord (answered Sir Bruin) let me alone with Reynard; I am not such a truant in discretion, to become a mock to his knavery: and thus full of jollity, the Bear departed: if his return be as jovial, there is no fear in his well speeding.



C H A P .

of Reynard the F O X.

C H A P . V.

How Bruin the Bear sped with Reynard the F O X.

The next morning away went Bruin the Bear, in quest of the Fox, armed against all plots of deceit whatsoever: and as he came through a dark forest, in which Reynard had a by-path, which he used when he was hunted, he saw a high mountain, over which he must pass to go to Malepardus; for though Reynard have many houses, yet Malepardus is his chiefest and most ancient Castle, and in it he lay both for defence and ease: Now at last when Bruin was come to Malepardus, he found the gates close shut, at which after he had knocked (sitting on his tail) he called aloud, Sir Reynard, are you at home? I am Bruin your Kinsman, whom the King hath sent to summon you to the Court, to answer many foul accusations exhibited against you: and hath taken a great Pow, that if you fail to appear to this summons, that your life shall answer your contempt, and your goods and honours shall lie confiscate at his Highness mercy: Therefore, fair Kinsman, be advised by your friend, and go with me to the Court, to hun the danger that else wi l fall upon you. Reynard lying close by the gate (as his custom was, for the warm Sun-sake) hearing these words, departed into one of his holes, for Malepardus is full of many intricate and curious Rooms, which (labyrinth-wise he could pass thowzow, when either his danger, or the benefit of any prep required the same) where meditating a while with himself how he might counterplot and bring the Bear to disgrace (whom he knew loved him not) and himself to honour; at last he came forth, and said, Dear Uncle Bruin, you are exceeding welcome, pardon my slownes in coming, for at your first speech I was saying my Even song; and devotion must not be neglected: believe me he hath done you no good service, nor do I thank him which hath sent you this weary and long journey, in which your sweat and toil, far exceeds the worth of the labour: certainly had you not come, I had to morrow been at the Court of mine own accord yet

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F. B.

The Moral. yet at this time my sorrow is much lessened, in as much as your counsel at this present, may return me double benefit: Alas Uncle! could his Majesty find no meaner messenger than your noble self to employ in these tribial affairs? truly it appears strange to me: especially since, next to speak truth, since I made my abstinence from flesh, I have eaten such strange new meats, that my body is very much distempered, and swelled as if it would break. Alas, dear Cousin (said the Bear) what meat is this which makes you so ill: Uncle (answered he) what will it profit you to know? the meat was simple and mean; we poor men are no Lords you know, but eat that for necessity, which others eat for wantonness: yet, not to delay you, that which I eat, was Honey-combs, great, full and most pleasant, which ney, is exp'rel. compelled my hunger, I eat too immeasurably, and am therefore infinitely distempered: ah quoth Bruin, Honey-combs; do you make such light respect of them, nephew? why it is meat far the greatest Emperor in the World. Fair Ne-

of Reynard the Fox.

phew, help me but to some of that honey, and I will reward you, whilst I live; for one little part thereof I will be your servant everlastingly. Sure, said the Fox (Uncle), you but jest with me. But jest with you, replied Bruin: be it so; my heart then: quite forget for I am in that serious earnest, that for one lick the tof, you be busines shall make me the faithfulst of all your kinred. Nay (said the Fox) if you be in earnest, then know I will bring you where so much is, that ten of you shall not be able to devour it at a meal; only for your love sake, which above all things I desire Uncle. Not ten of us (said the Bear) it is impossible: for had I all the honey betwixt Hible and Portugal, ye I could in a short space eat it all my self. Then know Uncle (quoth the Fox) that near at hand here dwelleth a husband-man named Lanter, whois master of so much honey that you cannot consume in seven years, which for your love and friendship sake I will put into your possession. Bruin mad upon the honey dines, do ever swoore that to have but one good meal thereof, he would not on- ly be his faishful friend, but also stop the mouths of all his ad- versaries. Reynard smiling at his easie helpe, said, If you will have seuen Tun, Uncle you shall have it. These words pleased the Bear so well, and made him so pleasant, that he could not stand for laughing.

Well, thought the Fox, this is good fayre; sure I will lead him where he shall laugh more measuredly: and then said Uncle, we must delay no time, and I will spare no pain for your sake, which for none of my kin I would performe, by the cruelty of their manner is) he began to cleave, and had struck into it two wedges, in such wise, that the cleft stood a great way open: at which the Fox rejoiced much, for it was unutterable to his wish: so that with a smiling countenance he said to the Bear, Behold now, dear Uncle, and be careful of your self; for within this tree is so much Honey, that it is unmea-surable, venge-

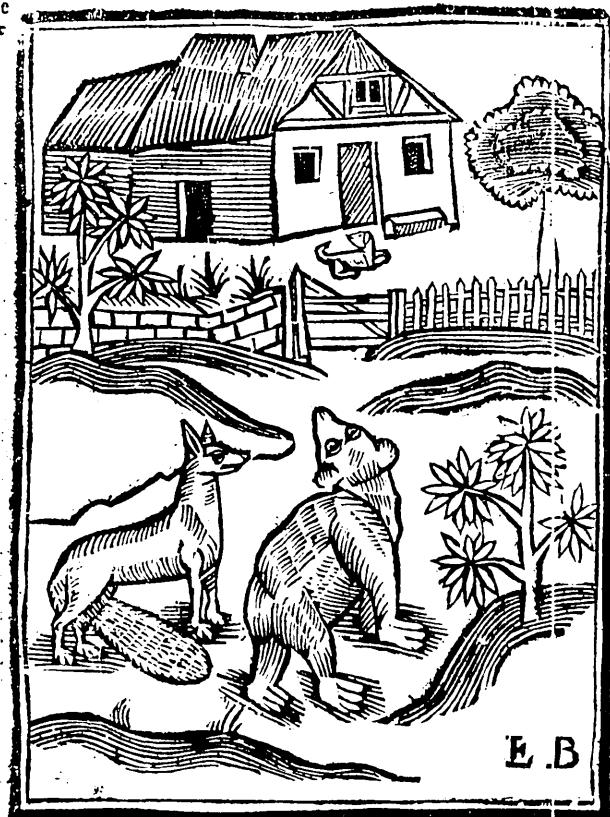
minutes of living, or their delight, in a delight, in the Fox is exp' est the causing of wisdom which ever casts out (to loose nature) thos baits of delights, which being swallowed with greediness, do ever choke the

and in danger of his life, appeareth by the Bear: who is not only wounded

and in danger of his life, but also made a mock and scorn to his enemies. Also by the cruelty used on the Bear by the common people, is shewed, how when an ill man is once in his vices, every one of what degree severer, from the highest to the lowest, are ready to prosecute and re-

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felves for the
ill they have
received.



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surable, try if you can get into it ; yet good Uncle, eat moderately : for albeit the Combs be sweet and good, yet a surfeit is dangerous, and may be troublesome to your body, which I would not for a World, since no harm can come to you, but must be my dishonour. Sozrow not for me, Nephew Reynard (said the Bear) nor think me such a fool, that I cannot tem-

of Reynard the F O X.

per mine appetite. It is true, my best Uncle, I was too bold ; I pray you enter in at the end, and you shall find your desire. The Bear with all haste entred the tree , with his two feet forward, and thrust his head into the cleft, quite over the ears : which when the Fox perceived , he instantly ran and pull d the wedges out of the tree, so that he locked the Bear fast therein, and then neither flattery nor anger availeth the Bear : for the Nephew had by his deceit brought the Uncle into so fast a prison, that it was impossible by any Art to free himself of the same. Alas ! what profiteth now his great strenght and valour ? why, they are both causes of more vexation , and he finding himself destitute of all relief began to howl and bray, and with scratching and tumbling, to make such a noise, that Lantert, amazed, came hastily out of his house, having in his hand a sharp hook , whilst the Bear lay wallowing and roaring within the tree : which the Fox afar off seeing, he said to the Bear in scozn, Is the Honey good (Uncle) which you eat ? how do you ? eat not too much I beseech you ; pleasant things are apt to surfeitt, and you may hinder your journey to the Court : when Lantert cometh (if your belly be full)



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he will gibe you drink to digest it, and wash it down your throat: and having thus said, he went towards the Castle. But by this time Lanfert finding the Bear fast taken in the tree, he ran to his neighbours, and desired them to come into his yard, for there is a Bear fast taken there; Which being noised thoro' all the Town, there was neither man, nor woman, nor child, but ran thither; some with one weapon, and some with another, as Goads, Rakes, Broom-staves, and what they could gather up: the Priest had the handle of the Cross, the Clerk had Holy-water sprinkled; and the Priest's wife, Dame Jullock with her Distaff, for she was then spinning: Nay, the old Weldams came, that had never a tooth in their heads. This Army put Bruin into a great fear, being none but himself to withstand them, and hearing the clamour of the noise which came thundring upon him, he wretched and pained so extreamly that he got out his head, but left behind him all the skin, and his ears also; insomuch that never creature beheld a fouler or more deformed Beast: for the blood covered all his face and his hands, leaving the claws and skin behind him, nothing remaining but ugliness: 'twas an ill market the Bear came to; for he lost both motion and sight, feet and eyes: but notwithstanding this torment, Lanfert, the Priest, and the whole Parish came upon him, and so be-cudgell'd him about his body-part, that it might well be a warning to all in misery, to know that ever the weakest shall still go most to the walls: This the Bear found by experience, for every one exercised the height of their furies upon him; even Houghlin with the crooked leg; and Ludolf with the long broad nose, the one with a leaden ball, and the other with an iron whip, all to be-lashed poor Sir Bruin; not so much, but Sir Bertolf with the long fingers. Lanfert and Ortam did him more annoyance than all the rest, the one having a sharp Welsh hook, the other a crooked staff well leaded at the end, which he used to play at Cat-ball with all: there was Burkin and Armes-Ablequack, Bane the Priest, with his staff, and dame Jullock his wife: all these so be-laboured the Bear, that his life was in great danger: the poor Bear in thy Massacre late and sighed extreamly, groaning under the burthen of their stroaks, of which Lanfert were the greatest.

of Reynard the FOX.

greatest, and thundered most dreadfully: for dame Podge of Casport was his Mother, and his Father was Marob the Staple-maker, a passing stout man when he was alone: Bruin received of him many showers of stones, till Lanferts Brother rushing before the rest with a staff, struck the Bear on the head such a blow, that he could neither hear nor see; so that awaking from the astonishment, the Bear leapt into the River adjoining, through a cluster of Willows there standing together, of which he threw divers into the water, which was large and deep, amongst whom the Parsons wife was one, which the Parson seeing how she floated like a See-mew, he left striking the Bear, and cryed to the rest of the company, help, oh help! Dame Jullock is in the water, help both men and Women, for whosoever saves her, I give free pardon of all their sins and transgressions, and remit all penance imposed whatsoever: this heard every one left the Bear to help dame Jullock, which as soon as the Bear saw, he cut the stream, and swam away as fast as he could; but the Priest with a great noise pursued him, crying in a great rage, Turn Villain, that I may be revenged of thee: but the Bear swam in the strength of the stream, and suspected not his calling, for he was proud that he was escaped from them: only he bitterly curs'd the Honey-tree, and the Fox, which had not only betrayed him, but had made him lose his hood fro' his face, and his gloves from his fingers: in this sort he swam some three miles down the water, in which time he grew so weary: that he went on the Land to get ease, where blood trickled down his face; he groaned, sighed and drew his breath so short, as if his last hour had been expiring: Now whilst these things were in doing, the Fox in his way home stole a fat hen, and threw her into his pale, a running thoro' a by-path that no man might perceive him, he came to the River with infinite joy: for he suspected that the Bear was certainly slain; therefore said to himself, My fortune is as I wish it, for the greatest enemy I had in the Court is now dead; nor can any man suspect me guilty thereof; but as he spake these wordz looking towards the River, he espied where Bruin the Bear lay resting, which struck his heart with grief, and he railed against Lanfert the Carpenter, saying, silly fool that thou art, what mad-man would have

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have lost such good venison, especially being so fat and wholesome, and for which he took no pains, for he was taken to his hand: any man would have been proud of the fortune which thou neglectest. Thus fretting and chiding he came to the River, where he found the Bear all wounded and bloody, of which Reynard was only guilty; yet in scorn he said to the Bear, Monsier, Dieu vous grade. O thou foul red villain, said the Bear to himself, what impudence is like this? But the Fox went on with his speech, and said, What Uncle? have you forgot any thing at Lanfert, or have you paid for the honey-combs you stole? if you have not, it will redound much to your disgrace, which before you shall undergo, I will pay him for them my self; sure the honey was excellent good, and I know much more at the same price: Good Uncle, tell me before I go, into what order do you mean to enter, that you wear this new fashioned hood? will you be a monk, an Abbot, or a frier? surely he that shaved your croton, hath cropt your ears, also your foretop is lost, and your gloves are gone, fie sloven, go not bare-handed? they say you can sing Peccavi rarely. These taunts made Bruin mad with rage; but because he could not take revenge, he was content to let him talk his pleasure: then after a small rest, he plunged again into the River, and swam over the stream, and landed on the other side, where he began with much grief to meditate how he might get to the Court; for he had lost his ears, his talons, and all the skin off his feet, so that he had a thousand deaths followed him; he could not go, yet of necessity he must move, that in the end compelled by extremity, he set his buttocks on the ground, and tumbled his body over and over; so by degrees tumbling now half a mile, and then half a mile, in the end he tumbled to the Court; where divers beholding his strange manner of approach, they thought some prodigie had come towards them; but in the end the King knew him, and grew angry, saying, It is Sir Bruin my servant, what villains have wounded him thus? or where hath he been, that he brings his death thus along with him? O my dread Sovereign Lord the King (cried out the Bear) I complain grievously unto you: behold how I am massacred, which I humbly beseech you revenge on that false Reynard, who for

doing

of Reynard the F O X.

doing your Royal pleasure hath brought me to this disgrace and slaughter. Then said the King, How durst he do this? now by my Crown I swear, I will take revenge, which shall make the Cryptoz tremble: whereupon the King sent for all his Council, and consulted, how, and in what sort to prosecute against the Fox: where it was generally concluded, that he should be again summoned to appear, and answer his trespasses; and the party to summon him, they appointed to be Tibert the Cat, as well for his gravity, as wisdom: all which pleased the King well.

C H A P. VI.

How the King sent Tibert the Cat for Reynard the F O X.

Then the King called for Sir Tibert the Cat, and said to him, Sir Tibert, you shall go to Reynard, and summon him by the sending the second time, and command him to appear, and answer his offences; for though he be cruel to other Beasts, yet to you he is courteous; assure him if he fail at the first summons, that I will take so severe a course against him, and his posterity that his example shall certify all offenders. **T**hen said Tibert the Cat, My dread Lord, they were my foes which thus advis'd you, for there's nothing in me that can force him either to come, or tarry: I beseech your Majestie send some one of greater power, I am little and feeble: besides, if noble Sir Bruin, that is so strong and mighty, could not enforce him, what will my weakness avail? The King replied, it is your wisdom, Sir Tibert, I employ, and not your strength; and many prevail with Art, when violence returns with lost labour: Well, said the Cat, since it is your pleasure, it must be ac- complished, heaven make my fortune better than my heart presageth: Thus Tibert made things in readiness, and went to Malepardus, and in his journey, he saw come flying to- wards him one of Saint Martins Birds, to whom the Cat vented by a cri'd aloud, hail gentle-bird: I beseech thee turn thy wings greater wisdom. In the and fly on my right hand: but the bird turned the contrary way, and flew on the left side; then grew the Cat very loathness to by, for he was wise and skilful in Augurism, and knew the go, is exprest sign the unwilling-

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ness a wise man sign to be ominous ; nevertheless (as many do) he armed himself to meddle in dangerous matters, especially when they hold the party with whom they have to do, of a reach far beyond them : yet when authority commands, they must obey, though dangers attend. A wise man sign to be ominous ; nevertheless (as many do) he armed himself to meddle in dangerous matters, especially when they hold the party with whom they have to do, of a reach far beyond them : yet when authority commands, they must obey, though dangers attend. **T**hen said Reynard, Sure you do but jest. So by my life, said the Cat. Well then (quoth the Fox) if you be in earnest, I will so work, that this night will I fill your belly ; 'tis not profitable, said the Cat : then follow me, said the Fox, for I will bring you to the place presently : thus away they went with all speed to the Priests Barn, which was well walled about with a mud-wall, where but the night before the Fox had broken in, and stole from the Priest an exceeding fat Hen, at which the Priest was so angry, that he had set a grin or snare before the hole, to catch him at his next coming, which the false Fox knew perfectly, and therefore said to the Cat, Sir Tibert, creep in at this hole, and believe it is small, the best I have is a honey-comb, too pleasant and sweet, what think you of it ? Tibert replied, it is meat I little respect, and seldom eat : I had rather have one mouse, than all the honey in Europe. A mouse (said Reynard) why my dear cousin, here dwelleth a Priest hard by, who hath a Barn by his house so full of mice, that I think half the Mains in the Parish are not able to bear them. O dear Reynard (quoth the Cat) do but lead me thither, and make me your servant for ever : why (said the Fox) but love you mice so exceedingly ? Beyond expression (quoth the Cat) why a mouse is beyond venison, or the delicatest cates on Princes Tables : therefore conduct me thither, and command my friendship in any matter : had you slain my father, my mother, and all my kin, I would clearly forgive you.

C H A P.

of Reynard the F O X.

C H A P. VII.

How Tibert the Cat was deceived by Reynard the F O X.

TH E N said Reynard, Sure you do but jest. So by my life, said the Cat. Well then (quoth the Fox) if you be in earnest, I will so work, that this night will I fill your belly ; 'tis not profitable, said the Cat : then follow me, said the Fox, for I will bring you to the place presently : thus away they went with all speed to the Priests Barn, which was well walled about with a mud-wall, where but the night before the Fox had broken in, and stole from the Priest an exceeding fat Hen, at which the Priest was so angry, that he had set a grin or snare before the hole, to catch him at his next coming, which the false Fox knew perfectly, and therefore said to the Cat, Sir Tibert, creep in at this hole, and believe it you shall not tarry a minutes space, but you shall have more mice than you are able to devour : hark, you may hear how they squeak : when your belly is full, come again, and I will stay and wait for you here at this hole, that too morrow we may go together to the Court : but good Cousin stay not too long, for I know my Wife will hourly expect us. Then (said the Cat) think you I may safely enter in at this hole ? these Priests are wise and subtle, and couch their danger oft close, that rashness is soon overtaken, Why Cousin Tibert (said the Fox) I never saw you turn coward before ; what man, fear you a shadow : The Cat ashamed at his fear, sprang quickly in at the hole, but was presently caught fast by the neck in the Grin, which as soon as the Cat felt and perceived, he quickly leapt back again : so that the snare running close together, he was half strangled, so that he began to struggle and cry out, and reclaim most pitifully : Reynard stood before the hole and heard

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heard all, at which he infinitely rejoiced, and in great scorn said, Cousin Tibert, love you Mice? I hope they be well fed for your sake? knew the Priest or Martinet of your feasting, I know them of so good disposition

of Reynard the Fox.

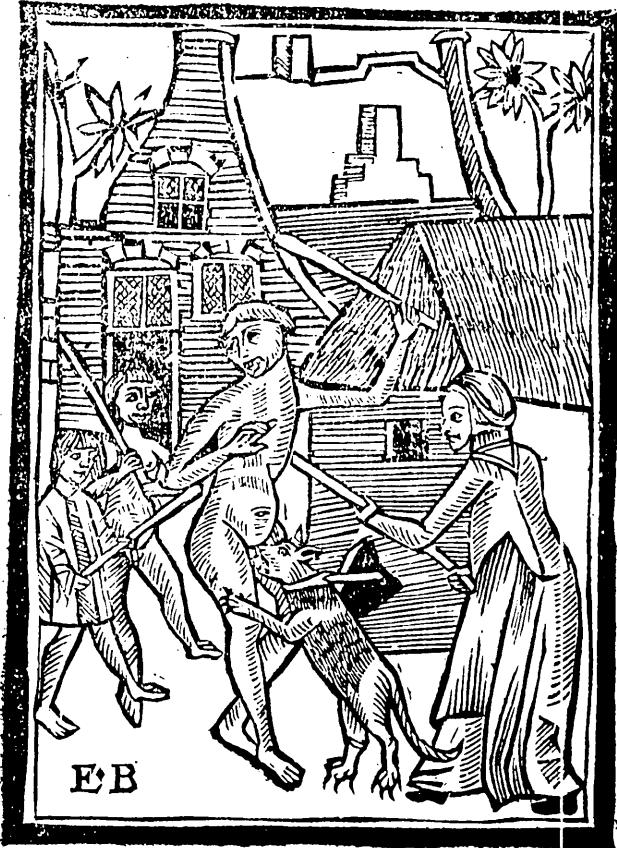
position, they would bring you sauce quickly; methinks you sing at your meat, is that the Court-fashon? if it be, I would flegim the Wolf were coupled with you, ther all my friends might be feasted together:

But all this while the poor Cat was fast, and meowed so pitifully, that Martinet leapt out of his bed, and cryed to his people, Arise, for the thief is taken that hath stoln our Hens:

With these words the Priest unfortunately rose up, and awaked all in his house, crying, the Fox is taken, the Fox is taken: and arising stark naked, he gave to Jullock his wife an offering candle to light, and then coming should to testifist to Tibert, he smote him with a great staff, and after him many others: so that the Cat received many deadly blows, and the anger of Martinet was so great, that he struck out one of the Cats eyes, which he did to the second the naked Priest, thinking at one blow to dash out the Cats brains: but the Cat perceiving his death so near him, in a desperate mood he leapt between the Priests legs, and with his claws and teeth so fastned on his genitoz, that in all the great Turks Seraglio, there was not a clearer Cunuch: which when dame Jullock his wife saw, she cryed out and swoze, she had rather have lost the whole Offerings of one seven years, than that one poor little morsel: and withall curst that ever the Grin was invented: and calling Martinet, See, my Son, this thy Fathers de-light, and my Jewel, but it is now spoiled, to his shame and my utter loss for ever: for howsoeuer he be cured, yet to me he can never more be comfortable.

All this while Reynard stood before the hole, and saw what passed, and laughed so extrely, that his body was ready to break; saying to Dame Jullock, Fie then set for o-Woman, do not torment your self so, the Priest hath lost but one eye, you may yet receive one bene-volence. Now whilst the Fox thus scolded the Priests Wife the poor

The Abbot.
By the Fox intairning, the Cat is exprest, how when men will trule their enemies, or give credit to reconciled friends, they evermore mis-carry in their designs, and therefore every man grow not fond of anything in his power, how a-greeable soever it be, either with his nature or his pallat. For the baits are only gilded Pils, which are fair to look on, but most bitter to taste. By which the Priest receiv-ed: is shewed that they which it mi-watch, harm catch; and that the trap which men now and others, brings hurt to themselves.



poor Priest fell down in a swound: so that every man left
the Cat, to revibe the Priest: which whilst they were do-
ing, the Fox returned home to Malepardus, for he imagi-
ned the Cat was past all hope of escape: but the poo: Cat
seeing

of Reynard the F O X.

seeing all his foes base about the Priest, he presently began to gnaw and bite the cord, till he had mared it quite asunder in the midst; which done, he leapt out of the hole, and went roaring and tumbling (like the Bear) to the Kings Court. But before he got thither, it was far day, and the Sun being risen, he entred the Court, like the pitifullest Beast that ever was beheld. For by the Fox's craft, his body was beaten and bruised, his bones bitered and broken; one of her eyes lost, and his skin rent and mangled. This when the King beheld, and saw Tibert so pitifully mangled, he grew infinitely angry, and took counsel once more, how to rehong the injuries upon the Fox. After some consultation, Grimbard the Brock Reynard's sisters son, said to the rest of the Kings Council, my good Lordz, though my Uncle were twice as evill as these complaints make him, yet there is remedy enough against his mischiefs, therefore it is fit you da him Justice as to a man of his rank, which is, he must be the third time summo ned, and then if he appear not, make him guilty of all that is laid against him. Then the King demanded of the Brock, whom he thought fittest to summon him, or who shold be so desperate to hazard his hands, his ears, nay, his life, with one so tyrronous and irreligious? Truly (answered the Brock) if it please your Maestie, I am that desperate person, who dare adventure to carry the message to my most subtile Bins man, if your Highness but command me.

C H A P. VIII.

How Grimbard the Brock was sent to bid the F O X
to the C O U R T.

Then said the King, Go Grimbard, for I command you: yet take heed of Reynard, for he is subtile and malitious: The Brock thanked his Maestie, and so taking his humble leave, went to Malepardus, where he found Reynard and Ermelin his wife, sporting with their young whelps; then having saluted his Uncle and his Aunt, he said: Take heed fair Uncle, that

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The Moral. In the sending of the Brock to the Court, add not more mischief to your

estate than the offence doth deserve; for it is high time to fetch the Fox, since your delay doth bring but more danger and punishment: the complaints against you are infinite, and this is your third time of summons. Therefore your vicious cannot be overtaken,

and brought to answer, then it is meet to use their own weapons

against them, and with policy, which can no way be better done than by employing their own kindred, and such as they most

dearly affect to persuade them, because Affection is ever a prevailing Orator.



there

of Reynard the FOX.

there is not left to you or yours any hope of mercy, for within three days your Castle will be demolished, your kindred made slaves, and your self exempted for a publick example. Therefore my best Uncle, I beseech you recollect your wisdom, and go with me presently to the Court. I doubt not but your discretion shall excuse you, for you have past thosd manys as eminent perils, and made your foes ashamed, whilst the Innocency of your cause hath born you spotless from the Tribunal. Reynard answered, Neophew, you say true, and I will be advised and go with you, not to answer offences, but in that I know the Court stands in need of my Counsel; the Kings mercy I doubt not, if I may come to speak with his Majestie, though mine offences were ten times doubled; for I know that the Court cannot stand without me, and that shall his Highness understand truly; though I know I have many enemies, yet it troubles me not, for mine innocence shall awaken their injuries, and they shall know that in high matters of State and Policy, Reynard cannot be missing: They may well harp upon things, but the pitch and ground must come from my relation: It is the envy of others hath made me leave the Court; for though I know their malitounes cannot disgrace me, yet may their multitudes oppres me: Nevertheless (Neophew) I will go with you to the Court, and answer for my self, and not hazard the welfare of me Wife and Children; the King is too mighty, and though he do me injury I will bear it with patience. This spake he turning to his Wife, and said, Dame Ermelin, have a care of my children, specially Reynard my youngest Son, for he has much of my love, and I hope will follow my steps; and Rosel is passing hopeful, and I love them intirely: therefore regard them, and if I escape, doubt not but thy love shall recompence you. At this leave-taking, Ermelin wept, and her children howled; for their Lord and master was gone, and Malepasus left unprouided.

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CHAP. IX.

How Reynard threw him to Grimbar the Brock.

The Moral.

THE MORAL. The flarit of the Fox sheweth, That when evil men are in danger, they like is in great hazard; perhaſ blot out my ſins with then they ever repenteſce, and to eali off the burden, give me liabe to gain moſt Reliſhrie my ſelf unto you; I know you are holi; and haſion; and by being received penance for my ſin, my ſoul will be quiet. A ſhew of a penitence, win Grimbar bid him proceed. Then ſaid the Fox, Confieſtivity from all borribi Paoe. Nay, ſaid the Brock, if you will ſhrie to thofe that dive me, do it in English that I may understand you: Then not into the depth of their ſaid Reynard, I have grievouſly offendid againſt all the Beaufs that live, and especially mine Uncle Brum the decit & kaavery. Where Bear, whom I lately massacred; and Tibert th Cat, bythoſh they whom I enſnared in a grin: I have trespaſſed againſt he never ſo e Chanteclear and his Chiloden, and habe devoured many of vil, yet they get a good name, and ſteal opin for I have flandered him and his Queen. I have betrayed ion of the Iſegrim the Wolf, and caſled him Uncle, though no part of multitudine. By his blood can in my beins. I made him a Monk of Elſmang, the abſolution which the Brock gave the Fox, is where I became alſo one of the Order, only to do h m open ſhewed how easily an ho- mifchieſ. I made him bind his foot to the Bell-rope to ſhew how ſteach him to ring, but the Peal had like to have cost him his life, the men of the Parish beat and wounded him ſo ſoore: after this I taught him to catch fish, but he was ſoundly beaten thereforē, and feeleth the ſupes at thiſ instant. I led him to Seal Bacon at a rich Prietis house, where he ſed ſo extreameſy, that not being able to get out where he got in, Iraſed all the Town upon him, and the i went where the Priet was ſet at Meat with a fat Hen be- fore him: whiche Hen I ſnacht away, ſo that the Priet cried out, Will the Fox, for never man ſaw any thing ſo ſtrange, that the Fox ſhould come into my houle, and which indeed ſhould not be beyond knowledge: and with theſe wordz he threwo his

of Reynard the F O X.



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his knife at me, but he miſſed me, and I ran away, whiche he purſued me, criyng, Will the Fox kill the Fox; and after him a world of people, whom I led to the place where Iſegrim was, and there I let my Hen fall, for it was too hea- vy for me (per muſh againſt my will) and then ſpringing through a hole, I got into ſafety. Now as the Priet took up the Hen, he eſpied Iſegrim, and then cried out, Strike, friends, ſtrike, here is the Wolf, by no means let him escape us: Then the people came all together, with bliths and stakes,

a more ſtrict and ſevere ex- amination, The Fox's leading the Brock by the Monaſtry and taking the Ca- pon, ſheweth, that where wickedneſs is rooted and made as it were a habit, that there notwithstanding all, hypocriſie will ſtill flaſh out, and a knave will be a knave in de- ſpit of all perwaſions and good counſel.

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and with a dreadful noise, giving the poor Wolf many a deadly blow, and some throwing stones after him, hit him such mortal blows on the body, that the Wolf fell down as if he had been dead, which perceived, they took him and drag'd him by the heels over Rocks and Stones, and in the end drew him into

of Reynard the F O X.

into a Ditch without the Village, and there he lay all night; but how he got thence I know not. Another time I led him to a place where I told him were sev'ent ocks and Hens set on a perch, all lussy and fat, and hard by the place stood a false dooz, on which we climbed: Then I told him if he could creep in at that dooz, he shoulb find the Hens. When Iegrim with much joy went laughing to the dooz, and entring in a little, and groping about, he said, Reynard you advise me, for here is nothing: Then replied I, Uncle they are further, and if you will have them, you must adventure for them: Whose which used to sit there, I my self had long since; at this the Wolf going a little further, I gave him a push forward, so that he fell down into the House, and his fall was so great, and made such a noise, that they which were asleep in the House, awaked and cried, that something was fallen down, at the trap-dooz; whereupon they arose, and lighted a candle, espyngh him, they beat and wounded him to death. Thus I brought the Wolf to many hazards of his life, more then I can now either remember or reckon, which as they come to my mind, I will reveal to you hereafter. I have also grievously offended against Dame Asfewnde his wife, of which I must repent me, for it was highly to her dishonour. Uncle, said Grimbard, I understand you well, you make your chaire unperfect, for you say you were offended, but declare not in what. Marbor me nephew, I know you hate to hear dishonour of Women: The truth is I have lain with her: Thus have I told you my Wickednes, now order my penance as shall seem fit in your discretion. Now Grimbard was both learned, and wise, and therefore brak a rod from a tree, and said, Nephew, you shall three times strike your body with this rod, then lay it down upon the ground, and spring three times over it without bawing of your legs, or stumbling: then shall you take it up, and kiss it gently, in sign of your meekness and obedience to your penance: which done, you are absolved of your sins committed to this day, for I pronounce unto you clear remission. At this the Fox was exceeding glad, and then Grimbard said unto him, See that henceforth,

Uncle,

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Uncle, you do good works, read your Psalter, go to Church, fast Wiggs, keep Holy-days, give alms, and leave your sinful and evil life, gone theft and your treason, and then no doubt you shall obtain mercy. The Fox promised to perform all this; and so they went together towards the Court. But a little besides the way as they went, stood a religious house of Puns, where many Geese, Pens and Capons, went without the wall: and as they went talking, the Fox led Grim-bard out of his right way to that place, and finding the Pullen walking without the Barn, amongst which was a fat young Capon, which strayed a little from his fellows: at which he suddenly leapt, and caught him by the feathers, which flew about his ears, but the Capon escaped: which Grim-bard seeing, said, Accursed man, what will you do, will you for a silly Puller fall again into all your sins? mischief it self would not do it: to which Reynard answered, Pardon me dear Nephew, I had forgotten my self, but I will ask forgiveness, & mine eye shall no more wander. And then they turned over



a Little

of Reynard the F O X.

* little Bridg; but the Fox still glanced his eye towards the Pullen, and could by no means restrain it; for the ill that was bred in his bones still stuck to his flesh, and his mind carried his eyes that way as long as he could see them: which the Brock noting, said, Fie, dissembling Cousin, why wander your eyes so after the Pullen? The Fox replied, Nephew, you do me injury so to mistake me, for mine eyes wandered not, but I was saying a Pater Noster for the souls of all the Pullen and Geese which I have slain and betrayed, in which devotion you hindered me. Well, said Grim-bard, it may be so, but your glances are suspicious. Now by this time they were come into the way again, and made haste towards the Court, which as soon as the Fox saw, his heart quaked for fear: for he knew well the crimes he was to answer, for they were infinite and hainous.

C H A P. X.

How the Fox came into the Court, and how he excused himself.

AS soon as it was bruited in the Court that Reynard the Fox, and Grim-bard his kinsman were arrived there, every one from the highest to the lowest, prepared himself to complain of the Fox: at which Reynards heart quaked, but his countenance kept the old garb, and he went as proudly as ever he was wont, with his Nephew through the street, and came as gallantly into the Court, as if he had been the Kings son, and as clear from trespass, as the most innocent whatsoever: and when he came before the chair of State in which the King sat, he said, Heaven give your Majesty glory and renown above all the Princes of the earth: I assure your Highness there is never King had a truer servant than my self have been to you, and yet am, and so will die: Nevertheless (My dread Lord) I know there be many in this Court that seek my confusion, if they could win belief in your Majesty; but you scorn the slanders of malice, and although in these



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The Moral. days, flatterers have the most room in Princes Courts, In the Fox his yet with you it is not so, nor shall they reap any thing appearing at but shame for their labour. But the King cut him short shewed, That at these words, and said, Peace, traitorous Reynard, when a Malefactor is I know your dissimulation, and can expound your flat- brought before the Ju- tery, but both shall now fail you: think you I can be caught with the musick of your words? no, it hath too often deceived me: the Peace which I command- is the fit time ed and I wroke unto, that have you broken. And for all men that have been injured, to utter their complaints, because then only redress is to be had. In the Lion is express the Lawfulness of Justice, and how terrible it is to every offender, especially such as have the guilt of Conscience within them. The Foxes bold behaviour shews, That impudent Malefactors when they are called in question, make audacity their chief guard; and by railing against their adversaries, do seek to extenuate the looseness of their offences; but Truth and Justice will not be hood-winkt.

as

of Reynard the F O X.

as he would have gone forward, Chanteclear crying out, How have I lost this noble Peace, be still Chanteclear (said the King) and then he proceeded. Thou Devil among good ones; with what face canst thou say thou lovest me, and seest all those wretched creatures ready to disprove thee, whose very wounds yet spit bloody defiance upon thee: and for which believe, thy dearest life shall answer; In nomine Patris, &c. said the Fox, My dread Lord, if Bruin's crown be bloody, what is that to me? if your Maiesy employed him in a message, and he would neglect it to steal Honey at the Carpenters house, where he received his wounds, how shall I amend it? If revenge be sought, why did he not take it himself? he is strong and puissant, it was not for to be lookt on as my weakness. As for Tibert the Cat (whom I received with all friendship) if he against my will or addice, will steal into the Priests Barn to catch mice, and there lose his eyes, nay his life, wherein is my offence? or how become Their guardian? My dread Lord, you may do your Royal pleasure; and however mine innocence plead, yet your will may adjudge me to what death contents you: I am your vassal, and have no support but your mercy: I know your strength and mine own weakness, and that my death can yield you but small satisfaction: yet whatsoever your will is, that to me shall be most acceptable. And as he thus spake, Bellin the Ram slept forth, and his Ewe-dame Oleway, and besought the King to hear their complaint; with them Bruin the Bear, and all his mighty lineage: And Tibert the Cat, Isegrim the Wolf, Kayward the Hare, and Panther the Boar, the Cammel, and Brue the Goose, the Kid and the Colt, Bauldwin the Axe, Bortel the Bull, and Hammel the Ox, the Weasel, Chanteclear the Cock, and Pattlet with all her Children. All these with one entire noise cried out against the Fox, and so moved the King with their complaint, that the Fox was taken and arrested.

The Pleasant History

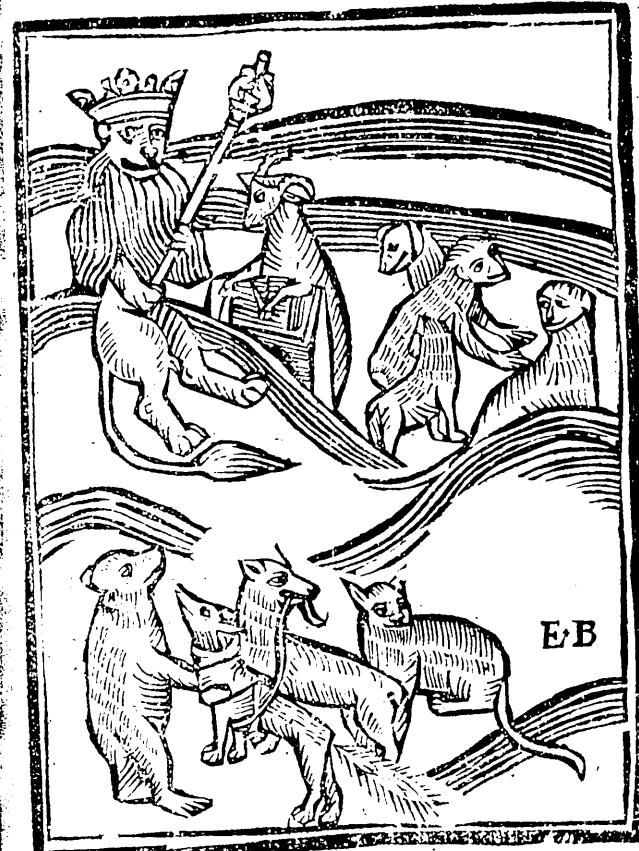
C H A P. XI.

How the Fox was arrested and judged to D E A T H.

Upon this Arrest a Parliament was called, and every voice went that Reynard shold be executed: notwithstanding he answered every objection severall, though great Art was used both in the one and the other, to the wonderful admiration of all that heard him: But witnessess examined and every proofe made pregnant, the Fox was condamn'd and judgment was given, that he shold be hanged till his body were dead. At which sentence the Fox cast down his head, for all his Jollity was lost, and no flattery, no nor words now prevailed. This done, Grimbarde his Neophew, and divers others near him in blood (which could not endure to see him die) took their leue of the King, and departed from the Court. When the King noted what Gallant young Gentlemen departed thence all sad and weeping, being near of the Foxes blood and alliance, he said to himself, It behoveth us to take good mature counsele; though Reynard have some faults, yet he hath many friends and moze virtues. As the King was thus thinking, the Cat said to the Bear, Hir Bruin and you Sir Isegrim, Why are you so slow in this Execution: the even is almost come, and here be many bushes and hedges, if he escape and quit himself of this danger, his subtillity is so great, that not all the Art in the World shall ever again intangle him: If you mean to execute him, then proceed, for before the Gallows can be made, it will be dark night. At these words Isegrim rememb'ring himself, said, There is a pair of Gallows near at hand (and with that sech'd a deep sigh) which he noting, said, Are you afraid Sir Isegrim? or is this execution against your mind? you may remember it only was his wok, that both your brethren were hanged: and sure had you Judgment, you would hang him for the same, and not thus stand trifling time. But Isegrim, half angry, answered, Your anger putt out the eye of your reason; yet had we a halter that would fit his neck, we would soon dispach him. Reynard that had been silent

of Reynard the FOX.

silent a great while, said, I beseech you shorten my pain: Hir Tibert hath a cord strong enough, in which himself was



hang'd at the Priests house, when he bit off the Priests genitors: besides he can climb well and swift: Do let him be mine Executioner, for it neither besemeth Isegrim nor Bruin thus to

of Reynard the F O X.

The Pleasant History

The Animal. to do with their Nephew: I am sorry I live to see it. By the violence of the Bear, the Wolf, and the Cat, in putting low Isengrim, and beware I escape not: you say well, said the Fox to Bruin, and it is the best counsel I have heard you give. So forth they went, and Isengrim and all his friends gathered together, executing the Fox, leading him by the neck, and other parts of his body: when the Fox felt this usage, he was dismayed; yet, said, Why do you put your selves (my malice of great best Kinsman) to this pain, to do me hurt? believe it not, I could well ask you forgiveness, though my pains be and such from their enemies, pleasant unto you: yet well I know, did my Aunt whom they wife understand of my trouble, she would for old affection have received sake not see me thus tormented. But I am subject to mischief, in which they will many times rather hazard their honour than death can come but once unto me; I wish it were past already, for to me it is no terror: I saw my Father die, and how quickly he vanished, therefore the worst of death is familiar unto me. Then said Isengrim, let us go, for his curse shall not light on me by delaying: So he on the one side, and Bruin on the other, led the woer Fox to the Gallows; Tibert running before with the halter, sence and nild hoped to be revenged of his wrong formerly received. When they were come to the place of Execution, the King and Queen, and all the rest of the Nobility, took their place to see the Fox die. Then Reynard full of sorrow, and busily bethinking himself how he might escape that danger, and how to enthrall and dislodge his enemies, especially proud enemies, and also how to draw the King on his party, saying to himself, Though the King and many others be offended with me, as they have reason, for I have thoroughly deserted it; nevertheless yet I hope to live to be their best friend. During this meditation the Wolf said, Sir Bruin, now remember your injuries, whereas roughness ever draweth forth pity. Whereas take your revenge in a full measure, for the day is come when Reynard the Fox will for Tibert ascend quickly and bring the rope to the gallows.

lows, making a running nooz, for this day you shall have your will of your enemy: and good Sir Bruin take heed he escape not, whilst I my self raise up the Ladder. When all things were prepared, the Fox said, Now may my heart be heavy, for Death stands now in all his horrour before me, and I cannot escape: my dread Lord the King, and you my Sovereign Lady the Queen, and you my Lords that stand to behold me die, I beseech you grant me this charitable boon, that I may unlock my heart before you, and clear my soul of her burdens, so that hereafter no man may be blamed for me; which done, my death will be easie, and the Assistance of your prayers will raise my soul to Heaven.

C H A P. XII.

How Reynard made his Confession before the K I N G.

Every creature now took compassion on the Fox, and said his request was small, beseeching the King to grant it: which was done. And then the Fox thus spake: Help me, Heaven! for I see no man here whom I have not offended: yet was this evil no natural inclination in me, for in my youth I was accounted as virtuous as any breathing: this know, I plaid with the Lambs all the day long, and took delight in their pretty bleating; yet at last in my play I bit one, and the taste of the blood was so sweet, that since I could never forbear it. This liquorish humour drew me into the Woods among the Goats, where hearing the bleating of the little Kids, I slew one of them, and after two more, which slaughter made me so hardy, that then I fell to murther Hens, Geese, and other Pullen. And thus my crimes increased by custom, and fury so possest me, that all was fish which came to my net. After this (in the winter season) I met with Isengrim, whereas he lay hid under a hollow tree, and he unfolded unto me how he was my Uncle, and laid the Pedigree down so plain, that from that day forth we became fellows and companions: which knot of friendship I may ever curse, for then began the flood of our thefts and slaughters:

he

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he stole the great things, & the small; he murthered Nobles,
The meanest Subjects: and in all h.s actions his hate still



was ever the greatest: when he got a ram, a Calf or
Wether, h.s lusty rould hardiz afford me the horz is to pick
on? nay, when he had an Ox, & a Cow, after himself, his
wife,

of Reynard the F O X.

wife and his seven children were servd, nothing remained
to me but the bare bones to pick on. This I speak not in that
I wanted (for it is well known I have moze Plate, Jewels,
and Cogn, than twenty Carrs are able to carry) but only to
shew his ingratitude. When the King heard him spek of this
infinite Treasure and Riches, his heart grew inflamed with
desire thereof: and he said Reynard where is that Treasure
you speake of? The Fox answered, My Lord I shall willingly
tell you, for it is true, the wealth was stoln, and had it
not been stoln in that manner as it was, it had cost
your Highnes his life (which Heavens I beseech keep ever
in their protection.) When the Queen heard that dangerous
speech, she started, and said, What dangers are there you
speak of, Reynard? I do command you upon your souls health,
to unfold these doubtful speeches, and to keep nothing con-
cealed which concerns the life of my dread Lord. The Fox
with a sorrowful and sad countenance replied to the Queen,
O my dread Sovereign Lady, at what infinite easle were I,
if I might dye at this present? but gracious Madam, your
conjuration, and the health of mine own soul, so prevaileth
with me, that I will discharge my conscience, and yet
speak nothing but what I will make good with the hazard of
damnation. 'Tis true, the King shold have been pitifully
murdered by his owne people, and I must confess, by those
of my nextest Kindred, whom I am unwilling to accuse, did
not the health of mine own soul, and the fealty to the King
command the contrary: The King much perplxt at this dis-
covery, said, Is this true, Reynard, which you protest? the
Fox answered, Alas, my dread Lord, you see the case where-
in I stand, and how small a land is left in my poore glas to
run: Can your Majestie imagine I will now dissemble? what
can the whole world avail me, when my soul perisheth? and
at that he trembled, and look'd so pitifully, that the Queen
had great compassion of him, and humbly besought the King
for the safety of his own Royal Person to take some pity
of the Fox, and command all his Subjects to hold their peace,
and keep silent till he had spoke the uttermost of his know-
ledge: all which was presently done, and the Fox proceeded in
this manner: Since it is the pleasure of my Sovereign

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Lord

The Pleasant History

The Moral. Lord the King, and that his Royal life lieth in the bane with my present death, I will freely and boldly unfold confession and accusation of this capital and foul treason, and in the relation not spare his enemies, is any guilty person for any respect whatsoever, whether in expressed a blood, greatness, or Authority: Know then, my dread threefold sub-Soveraign Lord the King, that my Father by a stranjer acci-
dency in the dent, digging in the ground, found out King Erneick's Fox: First, by his voluntary treasure; being a mals infinite and innumerable, of which confession of being possest, he grew so proud and haughty; that he be-
his faults, is held in scorn all the Beasts of the wilernes, wher before shewed his for had been his kinsmen and companions; at last he caused row for the Tiber the Cat to go into the vast Forest of Arden to Bruin
little hope he the Bear, and to render him his homage and fealty: saying, had of life; If it would please him to be King, he should come into which piercing Flanders, where my Father received him nobly. Then pre-
into the weak sently he sent for his wife, Grimbard my Nephew, and for
nature of the Queen, being a Negrim the Wolf, and for Tibert the Cat: then these five
woman, and comming between Gaunt and the Village called Elfe, they
subject to pity, held a solemn Council for the space of a whole night: in
begot much which by the assistance of the Devil, and the strong con-
compassion towards him 2. dence of my Fathers riches, it was there concluded, that
The accusing your Majesty shoulde forthwith murthered, which to effect,
of those whom they took a solemn Oath in this manner: The Bear, my
he was known Father, Grimbard, and the Cat, laying their hands on
most assuredly most. swore first to make Bruin their King, and
to love, was a Negrim's Crown, to place him in the Chair of Estate at Acon, and to set the
mean to draw belief to that Imperial Diadem on his head: and if by any of your Ma-
jesty's blood and alliance they shoulde be gain-sayed, that
3. The ingag-then my Father with his treasure shoulde hire those that
ing of the life shoulde utterly chase and root them out of the Forest. Now
of the King and making the after this determination held and finished, it hapned that
treason so foul, my Nephew Grimbard being on a time high-sown with
was a way to Mine, he discovered this damnable Plot to Dame Slopard
fright the Queen, and his Wife, commanding her upon her life to keep secret the
others of the same, but she forgetful of her charge, disclosed it in con-
like tendernes fessation to my Wife, as they went a Pilgrimage over an
of heart, and Death, with like conjuration of secretes: but she (woman
to bring his like.) contained it no longer then till she met with me, and
enemies into like.) contained it no longer then till she met with me, and
disgrace and gave me a full knowledge of all that passed; yet so, that by

of Reynard the Fox.

means I must keep in secreet too: for he had sworen by the scandal, where-
three Kings of Cullen never to disclose it; and withall he in the Fox
gave me such assurance by certain tooens, that I right well he which will
found all was true which he had spoken. insomuch, that slander, or will
the very affright thereof made my hair stand upriget, have any un-
and my heart became like Lead, cold and heavy in my truth believed,
bosome, which made me call to mind the Story of the strengthen his
Frogs, who being free without subjection, complained opinion with
to Jupiter, and desired they might have a King to rule pity, then get
and govern over them, and he presently sent them a Stork belief & lastly
wher eat and devoured them up: so that by his Tyranny exercise his
they became the most miserable of all creatures; then gaunst all
they complained again to Jupiter for redres, but it was which a wise
then too late; for they that could not be content with man will slay
their freedom, must now of necessity suffer in thralldom.

Lion did; if he

be not over

Thus I feared it might happen with us, and thus I soz-tempted by
rowed for your Majesty, although you little respect my grie-
ving: I know that the Ambition of the Bear and his Wp. as the Lion
rany is so great, that shoulde the Gobernment come into his was by the
hands (as Heaven forbid) the whole Common-wealth will own cove-
be destroyed: Besides, I know your Majesty of so Royal coulues, inde-
and Princely birth, so mighty, so gracious, and so merciful, siring that in-
that it had been a damnable exchange, to have seen a rau-
nous Bear to sit in the Throne of a Royal Lion; for than which
there is in the Bear and in his generation, more prodigal
loosness and inconstancy, than in any Beast whatsoever.

man sooner to

the belief of

But to proceed, from this sorrow I began to meditate untruth and of
how I might undo my Fathers false and wicked conspiracies, what a man
who sought to bring a Tyrant and a Slave into the desires, that
Throne Imperial: for I well perceived, as long as he his own desire
held the Treasure, there was a possibility of depositing will make him
your Majesty, and this troubled my thoughts exceedingly, credit; and
so that I laboured how I might find out where my Fathers credit is given,
Treasure was hid, and to that end I watcht and attended there com-
night and day in the Woods, in the Bushes, and in the mony th-wic-
open Fields: nay, in all places wheresoever my Father ed escape from
turn'd his eyes, there was I ever watching and attending, here it fel on
G 2

Pow with the Fox

The Pleasant History

Now it happened on a time as I was laid flat down on the ground, I saw my Father come running out of a hole,



and as soon as he was come out, he gazed round about him to see if any discovered him; then seeing the coast clear, he stopped

of Reynard the Fox.

stopped the hole with sand, and made it so even, smooth, and plain, that no curious eye could discern a difference betwixt it and the other earth: and where the print of his foot remained, that with his tail he stroked over, and with his mouth so smoothed it, that no man might perceive it: and indeed that and many other subtleties I learned of him there at that instant: when he had thus finished, away he went towards the Village about his private affairs: then went I presently towards the hole, and notwithstanding all his subtlety, I quickly found it out; then entered I the Cave, where I found that innumerable quantity of Treasure, which cannot be expressed: which found, I took Ermelin my wife to help me, and we cease not day nor night, with infinite great toyle and labour, to carry and convey away this Treasure to another place, much more convenient for us, where we laid it safe from the search of any creature. Now during the time that my wife and I were thus employed, my Father was in consultation with the rest of the Captayns about the death of the King: in which consultation it was concluded that Isgrin the Wolf shold travel over all the Kingdom, and promise to all the Beasts that would take wages, and acknowledge Bruin for their Sovereign, and defend his Title, a full years pay before-hand. And in this journey my Father accompanied him, carrying Letters Patents signed to that purpose, little suspecting that he was rob'd of the wealth which shold supply his treason: when this negotiation was finished between Elve and Soam, and a world of valiant Souldiers raised against the beginning of the next spring: then they returned to Bruin and his Companys, to whom they declared the many perils they had escaped in the Dukedom of Saxony, where they were pursued by Huntsmen and Hounds: so as they hardly escaped with life: after this relation, they shewed Bruin the Master-rolls, which pleased him exceeding much, for here was of Isgrin's lineage about twelve hundred sworn to the action, besides the Bears own kindred, the Foxes, the Cats, and the Waffens, all which would be in readiness upon an hours warning. All this I found out

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but (I praise Heaven) by perfect intelligence : Now things being brought to this perfection, my Father went to his Cave of Treasure : but when he found it open, spoil'd and ransackt, it is not in me to expels the infinite agony and sorrow he fell into, that grief conuerting to madness, and madnes to desperation, suddenly he went to the next Tree and hanged himself.

Thus by my Art only was the treason of Bruin defeated, for which I now suffer : from hence sprang all misfortune, as thus, the Kings Privatest Council, and sitting in high. These foul Traitors Bruin and Illegrim, being of great Authority, tread upon me poor Reynard, and wrak my di-grace: notwithstanding for your Majesties sake, I have lost my natural Father. O my dread Lord! what is he, or who can tender you better affection, thus to lo'e himself to save you? The King and Queen having greet hope to get this inestimable Treasure from Reynard, took him from the Gibbet, and entreated him to unfold where this great Treasure was. But the Fox replied, O my Lord, shall I make mine enemies my heirs? shall these Traitors which take away my life, and would devour yours, be possest of the good I enjoy? No, that's a madnes I'll never dye guilty of. Then said the Queen, fear no Reynard, the King shall save your life, and grant you pardon, and you shall henceforth swear faith and true Allegiance to his Majesty. The Fox answered, Dearest Madam, if the King out of his Royal nature will give credit to my truth, and forgiue my formeroffences, there was never King so rich as I will make him. Then the King shaping the Queen, said, Madam will you believe the Fox? know you not that it is his natural quality to lye, steal, and deceive? The Queen answered, my dear Lord, now you may boylly believe him, for however in his prosperity he was ful of errors, yet now you may see he is changed: Why, he spareth not to accuse his own Father, nay, Grimbard his dearest Nephew and kinsman? had he dissembled, he might have laid his imputation on other Beasts, and not on those he loveth most intirely. Well Madam (said the King) you shall at this time rule me, and all the offens-

ces of the Fox I will clearly pardon: yet with this Protestation, That if ever again he offend in the smallest crime whatsoever, that not only himself, but his whole generation, I will utterly root out of my Dominions. The Fox looked sadly when the King spake thus (but was inwardly most infinitely glad at his heart); and said, my dread Lord, it were a huge shame in me, should I speak any untruths in this great presence. Then the King taking a straw from the ground pardoned the Fox of all his trespasses which either he, or his Father, had ever committed: If the Fox now began to smile, it was no wonder, the sweetnes of life required it: yet he fell down before the King and Queen, and humbly thanked them for their mercy, protesting that for that favour he would make them the richest Princes in the World. And at these words the Fox took up a straw, and proffered it unto the King, and said to him, My dread Lord, I beseech your Majesty to receive this Pledg as a surrendar unto your Majesty of all the Treas ure that the great King ERMETICK was master of, with whch I freely enfessie you out of my meer voluntary and free motion. At these words the King received the straw, and smiling, gave the Fox great thanks for the same. But the Fox laughed out-right to think of the abuse. From that day forward no mens counsel prettalled with the King as the Foxes; which the Fox seeing, said to the King, My gracious Lord, you shall understand, that at the West side of FLANDERS there standeth a Wood called HUSTERLOE, near which runneth a River named CREKENPIT: this is a Wildernes so vast, and impassable, that hardly in all the year there cometh either Man or Woman in the same. In it have I hid this Treasure, whither I would have your Majesty and the Queen to go, for I know none but your selbes whom I dare trust in so great a design: and when your Highnes comes thither, you shall find two Birch trees growing by the pit, into which you shall enter, and there you shall find the Treasure, which consisteth of the Cogn, rich Jewels, and the wealthie

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wealthy Crown which King Emerick wore. With which Crown Bruin the Bear should have been Coroned, if his treason had succeeded according to his determination: where shall you see also many rich and costly precious stones, of which when you are possesst, then remember the love of your servant Reynard. The King answered, Sir Reynard, you must your self help to dig for this Treasure, for else I shall never find it. I have heard namele Paris, London, Acon, and Cullen, but Crekenpit I never heard of: therefore I fear you dissimble. The Fox blushed at those words, yet with a bold countenance he said, Is your Majestie so doubtful of my faith? nay, then I will approve my words by publick testimony: and with that he called forth Kayward the Hare from amongst the rest of the Beasts, and commanded him to corie before the King, charging him upon his Faith and Allegiance which he bore to the King and Queen, to answer truly to such questions as he should ask him. The Hare answered, I will speak truth in all things, though I were sure to dye for the same. Then the Fox said, Know you not where Crekenpit standeth? Yes, said the Hare, I have known it any tyme this dozen years; it standeth in a Wood called Husterloe, upon a vast and wide Wilderness, where I habt endured much torment both of hunger and cold: Besides, it was there where Father Simony the Fryer made false Coyn, with which he supported himself and his followers: Yet that was before I and Ring the Hound became companions. Well, said the Fox, you have spoken sufficiantly: go to your place again: so away went the Hare. Then said the Fox, my Sovereigne Lord the King, what say you now to my relation: am I worthy of your belief or no? the King said, Yes Reynard, and I beseech thee excuse my jealousies, it was my ignorance which did thee evil: therefore forthwith make preparation that we may go to the pit where this Treasure lyeth. The Fox answered, Alas my Lord, do you imagine that I would not fain go with you, if it were so that I might go without your dishonesty, which I cannot do: for you shall understand

of Reynard the F O X.

stand (though it be my disgrace) that when Isegrim the Wolf, in the Devil's name, would needs grow religious and turn a Monk, that then the portion of meat which was for six Monks was too little for him alone. Whereupon he complained so pitifully unto me, that I commiserating his case, (being my kinsman) gave him counsel to run away, which he did. Whereupon I stand accursed and Excommunicated, under the Pope's sentence, and am determined to morrow as soon as the Sun ariseth, to take my way towards Rome to be absolved; and from Rome I intend to cross the Seas into the Holy land, and will never return again into my Native Country till I have done so much good, and satisfied for my sins, that I may with honour and reputation attend on your Highnes Person. The King hearing this, said, Since you stand accursed in the Censures of the Church, I may not have you about me, and therefore I will at this time take Kayward the Hare, and some other with me to Crekenpit, and only command you, Reynard, as you respect my favour, to clear your self of his Holines Curse. My Lord (said the Fox,) it is the only reason of my going to Rome; neither will I rest night nor day, till I have gotten a full absolution. The course you take is good (said the King) go on, and prosper in your intent and purpose.

C H A P. XIII.

How Reynard the Fox was Honour'd of all Beasts
by the King's Commandment.

As soon as this Conference was ended, the Royal King mounted upon his high Throne, made in manner of a Scaffold, made of fair square Stone, and then commanded a general silence amongst all his Subjects, and then every one shoulde take his place according to his Birth, or Dignity in Office, onely the Fox was placed between the King and the Queen. Then said the King, Hear all you Noblemen, Knights, Gentlemen, and others of inferior quality, This Reynard, one of the Chief and Supreme Officers of my Household,

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~~Household~~, whose offences had brought him to the last reckoning of his life, as being in the hands of the Law and Justice,



bath this day, in requital of those Injuries, done that Noble and Worthy Service to the State, that both my Self and my Queen, stand bound to render him our best Grace and Favour. Therefore know, That for divers things

of Reynard the FOX.

things best known unto Our selves, we have freely gi. *The Moral.* Given pardon to all his Offences, and restored back to him By this Ho- whatsoeuer to Us was confiscate: therefore henceforth the Fox you I Command all of you, upon the pain and hazard of may see, that your dearest Lives, That you fail not, from this day when Poicy forward, to do all Reverence and Honour, not only to and Wisdom Reynard himself, but also to his Wife and Children, get the upper whensoever, or wheresoever, you shall meet them, whe- Enemies, it ne- ther by Night or by Day: Nor that any one hereafter ver resteth till be so audacious, as to trouble mine Cars with any it maketh more Complaints of him; for his Wickedness he hath known to the east behind him, and will no more be guilty of Wrong- greatness of doing: which, to effect the better, to Morrow, very ear- their Con- ly, he taketh his Journey towards Rome, where, from the quest, both to Pope, he will purchase a Free Pardon and Indulgence for exples their all his Offences, and then the Pilgrimage to the Holy Ambition, as land. This Speech, when Tisellin the Raven heard, he nuate their Creatures! how are your Fortunes changed? or how can keep their Foes in awe- a Courtier, a Chancelloz, nay, the prime Favourite: his ly shews of Offences are forgotten, and you are all betrayed, and sold new Grace unto Bondage. Isegrim answered, It is impossible, Ti- and favour. By sellin, nor can such a thyng be suffered: Do not deceive the Complaint of the Raven, your selves (said the Raven) for it is as true, as that now I speak it. Then went the Wolf and the Bear Jealousie and to the King, but the Cat staid, and was so soze af- Fear of the frighted with the News, that to purchase the Foxes weaker sort, Friendship again, he would not only have forgotten the and how in Evils received, but willingly have run into a second ha- their Troubles: zard. But now Isegrim, with great Majest and Pride, Heads of Fa- tracing over the Fields, came before the King and Queen, ction, and the and with the most bitter and cruel words, intreighed a- them with against the Fox in such a passionate and impudent man- their own safe- ner, that the King being infinitely moved with dis- tories to prevent evils. By the pleasure, caused the Wolf and the Bear to be present. Wolf and the Bear's Con- and foot so fast, that they could neither stir nor move from ment, is shewed, that when Men

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complain in unseasonable times, they ever run them sever into most apparent and grievous mischiefs. the place where they were couched. For when th: Fox had thus inthrallled and intangled them, he so laboured with the Queen, that he got leave to have so much of the Bear's skin as would make him a large Scrip for his Journey:



which granted, he wanted nothing but a strong pair of Shooes to defend his feet from the stones in his travel: Where-

of Reynard the F O X.

Whereupon he said to the Queen, Madam, I am your Pilgrim; and if it would please your Majesty but to take it into your Consideration, you shall find that Sir Isegrim hath a pair of excellent long lasting ones, which would you vouchsafe to bestow upon me, I would pray for your Majesty's Soul in all my travel about my charitable devotion. Also mine Aunt, Dame Arsewind, hath other two Shooes, which would your Majesty bestow upon me, I should be most infinitely bound to you, nor shouldest you do to her any wrong, because she goes seldom abroad. The Queen replied, Reynard, I cannot perceive but you shouldest want such Shooes, for your Journey is full of labour and difficulty, both in respect of the stony Mountains, and the grabelly Mays; and therefore you shall have (though it touch their Life never so nearely) from each of them a pair of Shooes, to accomplish and finish your Journey.

C H A P. XIV.

How Isegrim and his Wife Arsewind had their Shooes pluckt off for Reynard to wear to Rome.

After the Fox had made this Petition, Isegrim was taken, and his Shooes pulled off in most cruel and violent manner, so that all the veins and sinews lay naked: nor durst the poor massacred Wolf either complain or resist. After he had been thus tormented, then Dame Arsewind, his Wife, was used on the same manner on her hinder-feet, as her Husband was on his fore-feet; which the Fox seeing, said to her in a scornful manner, Dear Aunt, how much am I bound to you, that takes all this pains for my sake? questionless you shall be a sharer in my Pilgrimage, and take part in the Pardon I shall bring from beyond the Seas by the help of your Shooes. Then Arsewind (though Speech were troublesome to her) said, Well, Sir Reynard, you have your will accomplished; yet Heaven (I hope) will requite the misdeed. This he said, but her Husband and the Bear lay mute, for their wounds were grievous unto them: and surely had the Cat been there also,

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The Moral.

In the spoiling
the Bear of his
Skin, and the
Wolf of his
Shooes, is
shewed both
the Malice of
a revengeful
Enemy, that
never thinks

his Foe weak
ned enough,

till he be ut-
terly ruined;

as also the In-
discretion of
an over-angry
Nature, that
cannot stay

to give his
Wrongs ad-
vantage, but

utters his
Spite before

he can either
get relief or
remedy. By the
Ceremonies

done to the
Fox, and the
Curiosity of

the Ram, is
shewed, that in
cases of indif-
ference (where

Authority

hath power to

command, for

any Man to

stand upon

nice and puri-
ficational Terms

with his Supe-
riors, doth not

only breed Re-
prehension, but

Punishment.

also, he had not escap'd some extream punishment. The next Morning, very early, Reynard causing his Shooes to be well oil'd, put them on, and made them as fit to his feet, as they were to the Wolf, and then went to the King and Queen, and said, My Lord, and Lady, your poor Subject boweth himself before your Majesties, humbly beseeching your High selfs, to deliver me my Hale and my Staff, blesst, according to the custom due unto Pilgrims.

This said, the King sent for Bellin the Ram, and commanded him to say Solemn Mass before the Fox, and to deliver him his Staff, and his Hale: but the Ram refused, saying, My Lord, I dare not, for he harshly confessed he is in the Pope's Curse: and the King said, What of that? have not our Doctors told us, That if a Man comitt all the Sins in the World, yet if he repent himself, be given, do penance, and walk as the Priests shall instruct him, that all is clearly forgiven him? and hath not Reynard done all this? Then answered Bellin, Sir, I am loath to meddle hereto; yet if your Majesty will bear me harmless against the Bishop of Prendelor (my Ordinary) and against the Arch-deacon of Loof-wind, and Rapiamus his Official, I will effect your Commandment. At this the King grew angry, and said, I scorn to be holding unto you: But when the Ram saw the King offended, he shooke for fear, and ran presently to the Altar, and sung Mass, and used many Ceremonies over the Fox, who gave little respect unto them, more than the desire he had to enjoy the Honour. And when Bellin the Ram had finished his Orazons, he presently hung about Reynard's Neck his Hale, which was made of the Bear's Skin, and put into his right Foot a Palmer's Staff: and thus being furnished of all things, he looked sadly upon the King, as if he had been loath to depart; and fained to weep (though sorrow and he were never farther alunder) only his worst grief was, that all in that presence were not in the same case that the Bear and the Wolf were; yet he took his leave of them, and desired every one to pray for him, as he would pray for them: and then offering to depart, (for knowing his own knavery, he was very desirous to be gone)

of Reynard the FOX.

(gone) the King said, Sir Reynard, I am sorry we must part By the Fox's Hypocritise, is thus suddenly: Then said the Fox, There is no remedy, my seen the dissimulation of Lord, nor ought I to be slow in so devout an action. Then the King took leave, and commanded all that were about him worldly Men: (but the Bear and the Wolf) to attend Reynard some part of his Journey. He that had seen how gallant and personable Reynard was, and how well his staff and his mace became him, as also how fit his shooes were for his feet, it could not have chosen but have stirred in him very much laughter: Yet the on a most false Fox carried himself outwardly very demurely: however inwardly he smiled at the abuses he had cast among them; especially to see his enemies, now his attendants, and the King, whom he had most palpably wronged with false lies, to be attending to all his vain desires, did accompany him also as if they on the Fox is had been his Companions. But the Fox being now onward Flattery and his way, he said to the King, I beseech your Majesty trou- Bafenes of bie your self no further, but have respect to your ease, and many People, the danger that might happen to your Royal Person; for that never you have arrested two capital Traytors, who if in your absence they should get at liberty, the danger were infinite which a Man is, but might issue thereon. And this said, he stood upon his hinder that favour feet, and intreated the Beasts that were in his company, and con- and would be partakers of his Pardon, that they would pray nance is ever for him: which done, he departed from the King with an enough to exceeding sad and heavy countenance: Then turning to their services, Kayward the Hare, and Bellin the Ram, he said, with a smiling countenance, My best Friends, shall we part thus soon? I know your loves will not leave me yet: with you two I was never offended, and your Conversations are agreeable to my Nature, for you are Mild, Loving, and Courteous, Re- ligious, and full of wise Counsel, even such as myself was when I was first a Recluse: if you have a few green leaves, or a little grass, you are as well content, as with all the bread and fish in the world, and you are temperate and modest: And thus with a word of such like flattering words, he inticed these two, that they were content to go along with him.

C H A P. XV.

How Kayward the Hare was slain by Reynard the Fox, and sent by the Ram to the King.

Thus marched these thre together; and when Reynard was come to the gates of his own house, he said to Bellin, Cousin, I will intreat you to stay here without, a little, whil'st I and Kayward go in: for I would have him i witness of some private passages betwixt me and my wife. Bellin was well content, and so the Fox and the Hare went into Malepar-dus, where they found Dame Ermelin lying on th' ground, with her younglings about her, who had sozrowed exceeding-ly for the los's and danger of her Husband: but wh'n she saw his return, her joy was ten times doubled. But beholding his male, his staff, and his shooes, she gret into a great admirati-on, and said, Dear Husband, how habz you fared? to whom he delivered, from point to point, all that had passed with him at the King's Court, as well his danger as release, and that now he was to go a pilgrimage, having left Bru'n and Le-grim to pledge for him till his return: as for Kayward he said the King had bestowed him upon them, to do with him what they pleased, affirming, that Kayward was the fir st that had complained of him, for which questionless he vowed to be harshly revenged. When Kayward heard these words, he was much appaled, and would fain habe fled awry, but he could not, for the Fox had got between him and the Gate, who presently seised the Hare by the neck: at which the Hare cried unto Bellin for help, but could not be heard, for the Fox in a trice had torn out his throat: which done, he, his wife and young ones feasted therewith merrily, eating the flesh, and drinxing the blood to the King's Health. But Ermelin growing suspicioius, said, I fear, Reynard you mo'ke me; as you love me tell me how you sped at the Court. Then he told her how extreamly he had flattered the King and the Queen, and abused them with a fained promise of Treasur'e, that was not, ason urb, that he knew when it should come to be re-vealed,

of Reynard the F O X.

bealed, the King would seek all the meas's he could to dessey *Ec Morel.*
him. And therforeze Wife, said he, there is no remedy but By the killing
of the Hare i shewed, that's whereas men
out of the lightness and caines of their belief, do give credi to the entice-
ments of their Adverteries, new reconciled Friends, that evermore
some erevitable mischief - doth still fol low such fol y and improvi-
dence. Also how easily a malicious man can find cause
of quarrel with such as are too weak for them, or as eye-sores, stand between them and the end of their purposes; or are able to re-
voal and hinder their projects. By the Rams carrying the Hares head to the Lyon, and taking up on him to in-
dite the Let-
ters, which he saw not, is dis-
covered, that such v'n glo-
rious pickes

E.R.

may live in better safety, and in a place more fruitful, where we shall have all the delicatest meats that can be wish't for, clear

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pures of o^r clear springe, fresh riuers, cool shades, and sholsor^r g
thersqualites Air; here I know is no abiding: and now I have gotten my
do ever carry thumb out of the Kings mouth, I will no more come within
shanes and the danger of his talons. Yet (said Emelin) I hate no fan-
discreputations, ey to go from hence to a place where I am utterly unac-
and when they qua[n]ted: here we posess all that we desire, and you are a
look for most honour or re^r L[ord] over all that lives about you, and it is but in irds-
town, they creet hazard to change a certain good for a hoped conten-
trep nothing ment: besides we are here safe enough, and shalld be King
besige us never so straightly, yet have we so many passages
and by-holes, that he can neither cut from us relif, or li-
berty. D what reason have we then to flee beyond Seas?
but you have swozon it, that is my vexation. My Dame
(said the Fox) grieve not at that: the more forsworn, the
less forlorn: Besides I have heard some say, that a fo'e^r
Dath is no Dath? nor do I make account that this Pilgi-
moge will avail me a rush. And therefore I am resolved,
and will not start from hence, but follow thy counsel: If
the King do hunt after me, I will guard my self as well as
I am able, and against his Power apply my Policy: so that
being forced to open my Sack, let him not blame me if he
catch hurt by his own fury.

All this while stood Bellin the Ram at the Gate, and grew exceeding angry both against the Fox and the Hare, hat they
made him wait so long: and therefore called out a loud for
Reynard to come away: which when Reynard heard, he went
softly, and said softly to the Ram, Good Billin le not of-
fer ded, Kayward is in earnest Conference with his dearest
Aunt, and increated me to say unto you, that if you would
be pleased to walk before, he would spedily overtake you,
for he is light of foot, and speedier than you: nor will his
Aunt part with him thus suddenly, for she and her Children
are much perplexed at my departure. I but (quoth Bellin)
methought I heard Kayward cry for help. How cry for
help! can you imagine he shall receive hurt in my House? far
be such a thought from you: but I will re I you the reason, as
soon as we were come into my house, and that Emelin my
Wife understood of my Pilgrimage, presently she fell down
in a swound, which when Kayward saw, ye crind aloud,

of Reynard the FOX.

Bellin come and help my Aunt, she dies, he dies: Then said
the Ram, in sadness I mistook the cry, and thought the Hare
had been in danger. It was your too much care of him, said
the Fox, but before he shoulde have any injury in my house, I
would leave to respect either Wife or Children. But let-
ting this discourse passe, You remember Bellin that yester-
day the King and his Council commanded me, that be-
fore I departed from the Land, I shoulde send unto him
two Letters, which I have made ready, and will intreat
you my dearest Cousin, to bear them to his Majesty. The
Ram answered, I would willingly do you the service, if
there be nothing but honourable matter contained in your
Letters: but I am unprovided of any thing to carry them
in. The Fox said, that is provided for you already, for
you shall have my Male, which you may conveniently
hang about your neck: I know they will be thankfully
received of his Majesty, for they contain matter of great
importance. Then Bellin promised to carry them: So the
Fox returned into the House, and took the Male, and put
therin the Head of Kayward, and brought it to the Ram,
and gave him a great charge not to look therin, till it
was presented to the King, as he did expect the Kings
favour: And that he might farther indear himself with
his Majesty, he bade the Ram take upon him the Ju-
dging of the Letters, which will be so pleasing to the
King, that questionless he will pour upon you many fa-
vours.

The Ram was exceeding glad of his advice, and
thanked the Fox, saying, That the favours he did him
should not die unrequited: and I know it will be
much to mine Honour, when the King shall think I am
able to Indite with so great Perfection: For I know
there be many in these days as ignorant as my self, that
are risen to high promotion only by taking upon them
the worth of other mens Labour. Yet I pray you,
Reynard, farther advise me, is it meet that I take Kay-
ward the Hare along with me? D by no means (said the
Fox) let him come after you, for I know his Aunt will no-

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yet part with him. Besides, I have other secret things to impart to him, which may not be revealed. So his said Bellin took leave of the Fox, and went toward the Court, in which journey he made such speed, that he came thither before noon, where he found the King in his Palace, sitting among the Nobility.

Th-

of Reynard the F O X.

The King wondred when he saw the Ram come in with the male which was made of the Bears skin, and said, Whence comest thou Bellin? and where is the Fox, that you have that about you? Bellin answered, My dear Lord, I attended the Noble Fox to his house, where after some repose, he desired me to bear certain Letters to your Majesty of infinite great importance, to which I easily consented. Whereupon he delivered me the Letters inclosed in this male, which Letters my self had formerly indited, and I doubt not but are such as will give your Highness both contentment and satisfaction. Presently he commanded the Letters to be delivered to Bocart his Secretary, who was an excellent Linguist, and understood all Languages, that he might read them publickly: So he and Tibert the Cat took the male from Bellins neck, and opening the same, instead of Letters they drew out the head of Kayward the Hare, at which being amazed, they said, Who and alais! what Letters call you these? believe it, my dread Lord, here is nothing but the head of pooz murthered Kayward. Which the King seeing he said, Alas! how unforzunate was I to believe the traitorous Fox? And with that being opprest wito anger, grief, and shame, he held down his head for a good space, and so did the Queen also: But in the end shaking of his curled locks, he groaned out such a dreadful noise, that all the Beasts of the Forrest did tremble to hear. Then spake Sir Frapel the Lybard, who was the Kings nearest Kinsman, and said, Why is your Majestie thus vexed in heart? this sorrow might serve for the Queens Funeral. I do beseech you asswage your anguish: Are not you King and Master of this Country? and are not all things subject to your power? The King replied, Cousin, this is mischief beyond endurance, I am betrayed by a base Villain, and Traitor, and have been made to wrong and abuse my best Friends and Subjects, even those of my blood, and nearest counsel; I mean the stout Bruin, and valiant Isegrim, whose wrongs speak loud to my dishonour; yet in my self I found all unwillingnes thereto only my Queens pity, working upon the easines of my belief, hath made me guilty of that which will evermore grieve me. Why (said the Lybard) what of all this? you are above all your Injuries, and with one

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one smile can salve the greatest wound that can be made in Honour; you have power to recompence; and what reputation is it, that reward will not sander? As for the Bear that lost his skin, the Wolf and his wife Dame Arawind, that lost their shoo's, you may in recompence (since Bellin hath confess himself a party in this foul murther) beflow him and his substance upon the parties grieved: As for Reynard, we will go and besiege his Castle, and having arrested his person, hang him up by the Law of Arms without further trial.

C H A P. XVI.

How Bellin the Ram, and his Lineage, were given to
to the Bear and the Wolf.

TO this motion of the Libard the King consented; so that Sirapel forthwith went to the Prison, where the Bear and the Wolf were, and said, My Lords, I bring a free and general

of Reward the FOX.

general Wardon from the King and his Lord, and a recognition of your injuries: which to recompence u. some large



manner out of h's Princely bounty, he is pleased to bestow upon you both Bellin the Ram, and his whole generation, with whatsoever they possess, and is now confiscate to his Ma-
jesty,

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jesly, to hold from heresforth, to you and yours, till Diomday, with full Commission to slay, kill, and devour them wheresoever you find them, be it in Woods, Fields or Mountains. Also the King granteth unto you full power to hunt, kill or wound Reynard the Fox wheresoever you find him, or any of his Lineage or Generation: And of this great Priviledge, you shall receive Letters Patents at your pleasure, with only a reservation of your safety and homage to be due to his Majestie, which I advise you to accept, for it will redound much to your Honours. Thus was the Peace made between the King and these Nobles, by the Lybard; and Bellin the Ram was forthwith slain by them; and all these Priviledges doth the Wolf hold to this Hour, nor could ever any reconciliation be made between them and the Rams Kinred. When this Peace was thus finished, the King for joy thereof proclaimed a Feast to be held for twelve days after, which was done with all Solemnyt.

To this Feast came all manner of Wild Beasts, for it was universally known throughout the whole Kingdom; nor was there wanting any Delight or Pleasure that could be imagined, as Musick, Dancing, Masking, and all Princely Recreations. As for several Meats, they were in that abundance, that the Court seemed a Stoze house which could not be emptied. Also to this Feast resorted abundance of Feathered Fowl, and all other Creatures that held Peace with His Majestie, and no one mislike but the Fox only.

Now after this Feast had thus continued in all Joy up the space of eight days, about high noon come Lapril the Coney before the King and Queen as they sat at Dinner, and with a heavy and lamentable voice, said, My gracious and great Lord have pity upon my misery, and attend my complaint, which is of great violence, force and murder, which Reynard the Fox would yesterday have committed agaist me, as I passed by the Castle of Malepardus, where standing without his Gates, attired like a Pilgrim, I supposing to pass peaceably by him toward my Rest, he crost my way, saying his Beads so devoutly, that I saluted

of Reynard the FOX.

saluted him: but he returning no answer, stretcht forth his right foot, and gave me such a blow on the neck, between the

The Moral.
By the giving
of Bellin unto
his enemies, is
shewed, that
when simple
men give
themselves to
pride and vain
glory, they are
overtaken by
their enemies,
& made slaves
to shame and
destruction. By
the complaint
of the Coney,
is shewed, that
when the
weak will be
lieve the fair
shews of the
strong, and
cruel, and so
commit their
safeties to their
enemies mercies,
they seldom escape
with life, or if
they do by
some hidden
providence, yet
it is not without
ever some
maim, either
to their bodies
or reputacion.
The complaint
of the Rook
sheweth, that
when the evil
man sleepeth,
or seemeth to



E·B

head and shoulders, that I imagined my head had been stricken from my body: but yet so much memory was left me, that I leapt from his claws, though most grievously hurt and tenent of wick-wounded

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nes, that then wounded. At this he grieved extremly, because I scaped, his thoughts only of one of my ears be utterly deprived me; which I be-
are most busi- seek your Majestie in your Royal nature to pity, and that
ed and labori- Murtherer may not live thus to afflict your poor
ous to destroy this bloody Murtherer may not live thus to afflict your poor
the innocent Subjects. Now whilist the Coney was thus speaking to the
and the mis King, there came flying into the Court, Corbant the Rook,
chief is more who coming before the King, said, Great King, I beseeche you
violent, than vouchsafe to hear me, and pity the complaint I shall utter:
when he lyeth vouchsafe to hear me, and pity the complaint I shall utter:
most apparent, So it is, that I went this morning with Shunmeal my
and publisheth wife to recreate our selves on the Health, and there we
himself an o- found Reynard the Fox laid on the ground like a dead carcass,
pen enemy; his eyes staring, his tongue lolling out of his mouth like a
wherefore the dead hound, so that we wondering at this strange plight, be-
simple and in- nocent ought gan to feel and touch his body, but found no life therein at
at such times all: Then went my wife (poor carefull soul) and laid her
to be most dead to his mouth, to see if he drew any breath: which she
scarful, and to had no sooner done, but the foul murtherer awaiting his
keep farthest time, snatched her head into his mouth, and bit it quite off.
out of his dan- At that I screaked out, and cried, Who is me, what mis-
cer.

fortunes are these? But presently the Murtherer stacis up,
and reached at me with such a bloody intent, that with
much trembling and anguish, I was fain to flee up into a
tree, where I saw him devout up my wife in such terrible
manner, that the very thought is death to me in the re-
peating.

The Massacre finished, the Murtherer departed, and I
went to the place, and gathered the feathers of my lost wife,
which here I humbly present before your Majestie, beseeching
you to do me justice; and in such manner to revenge mine
injury, that the world may speak same of your great Exce-
llence; for thus to suffer your Laws, Protections, and safe-
Conducts to be violated and broken, will be such disriputa-
tion and scandal to your Crown and Dignity, that you: ver
Neighbours and Colleagues will note and point at your re-
miseness: besides, the sufferance of the evil will mak you
guilty of the trespasses which arise from such sufferance: But
to your great considerations I leave it, since I know your
Majesties own goodness will make you carefull of your Ha-
nour and Royalty.

C A P.

of Reynard the FOX.

C H A P. XVII.

How the King was angry at these complaints, took
counsel for revenge; and how Reynard was fore-
warred by Grimbold the Brock.

The Royal King was much moved with anger, when
he heard these complaints both of the Coney and the
Rook, so that his eyes darting out fire amongst the beams
of Majesty, his countenance was dreadfull and crnel to look
on, and the whole Court trembled to behold him. In the
end, he said, By my Crown, and the truth I evermore re-
verence and owe unto the Queen my wife, I will so re-
venge these outrages committed against my Crown and
Dignity, that goodness shall adore me, and the wicked shall
die with the remembraunce: his falsehood and flattery shall no
more get believ in me.

Is this his journey to Rome, and to the Holy land? are
these the fruits of his Malice, his Staff, and other Ornaments
becoming a devout Pilgrim? Well, he shall find the reward
of his Treasons: but it was not my belief, but the perswa-
shion of my Queen: nor am I the first that hath been de-
ceivd by that soft gender, since many great spirits have fallen
through their inticements. And this said, he commanded
all that were about him, both Noble, Worthye, and every dis-
creet spirit, to assist him with their Counsel, and to lay him
down such sure ground for his revenge, that his Honour
and Royalty might be a new rebibed, and every Offender
made to know and feel the heaby price for their most unjust
actions.

Hegrim the Wolf, and Bruin the Bear, hearing the Kings
words, were wonderfully well apaid, and doubted not but
now to gain their full revenge against Reynard; yet still
they kept silence, and spake not a word. Insomuch that the
King being much moved with their dumbness, and noting
that none durst freely deliver their opinions: He began to
bend his forehead: But the Queen after solemn reverence,
said to the King, Monsieur, Pour Dieu croyez me toutes
choses

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choes q'on vous, & ne jurez point Iegrement. Sir, It is
not the part of any excellent Wisdom, to blieue or protest
in any thinc, till the matter be made most appareo: and
pregnant to his knowledg: neither shoud bathe his eys be-
engaged to any complaint, but are ever reserved to inter-
tain the defencse of any accused: For many times the ac-
cused exceedeth the accuser in injury: And therefore Audit al-
aram Partem, to hear the other Party, is the art of perfect:

Justice:

of Reynard the F O X.

Justice: For my own part, howsoever I have erred ^{let i} The Mon. i.
have strong ground for my perswasion; or whether Reynard The anger of
be good or bad, yet it stands with your Crecilency not to the Lion at
proceed against him, but by the true form of our Laws: for pastes, shews
he hath no power to escape you, but must obey whatsoeuer the disposition
your Sobriety can impose upon him. When the Queen had of a good
thus spoken, Firapel the Libard to second her intreay, said, Prince which
My Lord, the Queen hath spoken graciously, and I see not and offended,
wherein your Majestie can stray from her judgment: There- when his good
soe let him take the due Trial of your Laws, and being found Subjects are
guilty of the trespasses whereof he is accused, let him be sum- injured; and
moned: and if he appear not before your Feast be ended the perswasion
to clear himself, or submit to your mercy, then may your & the Libard,
Highness procced against him, as it shall seem best to your shews the true
pleasure.
which every
Prince should

To this speech Ic-grim the Wolf replied, Sir Firapel, for use when he
my own part. I think not any of this assembly will dissent admistreth
from your counsel, so it may stand with the pleasure of my Justice. The
Lord the King: yet this I dare maintain, that howsoever moderate, yet
Reynard shall clear himself of these and a thousand such like of the Wolf,
trespasses which shall be brought against him: yet I have shws the can-
that lodged in my bosom, which shall approue he hath forfei- biting words
ting malice of ed his life: but at this time his absence shall make me si- a subtil ioe,
lent, only touchyng the Treasure of which he hath informed who before
his Majestie to lie at Creckepit in Husterlae, there never his co-try
came a falser information from the mouth of any creature, fction, wh
for it was a lie made out of malice to wrogn me and the conceit the vi-
Bear, and get himself liberty to rob and spoil all that pas- elence of his
sed by his House, as now he doth: but notwithstanding he may earn a malice, that to
held it meet that all things be done as shall seem good to more quiet at
his Majestie, or you, Sir Firapel: Yet this believe, that ten i. and bitter pro-
if he had meant to have appeared, he h'd been here long then rasing
since; for he had summous given him by the Kings Wels words, with
serger.

To this the King answered, I will have no other conseil and doctour
summoning him, but command all that owe me Allegiance, iuris, deh
or respect mine Honour, that so thwith they make themselves can to person
ready for the War: and at the end of six days appear be the r. p. t. ca
soe

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of him he has set me with their Bows, Gunnis, Bumbards, Pikes and
spear. The halberds; some on Horse-back, some on foot, for I will
be the Fox, besiege Macardus instantly, and destroy Reynard and his
brethren the generation from the earth for ever: this is any d'slike, let
all of a tree him turn his back, that I may know him for mine Enemy.
I send, which both giveth And they all cried with one voice, We are ready to attend
warning and your Majestly.

When Grinberd the Brock heard his determination, he grew exceeding sorry (though his sorrow was desperate) when they see and stealing from the rest of the Company, he ran with them run into all spced possible to Milcopardus, neither sparing Bush nor evil couns. The Foxes Brier, Hale or Fail: and as he went, he said to himself, exulting, Alas my dear Earle Rvnard! into what hazards art thou shews the true dazon, havng but own step betwixt thee and thy death, nature or ^oz at the best, thine everlasting banishment! Well may desperate man that when he I grieve for thee, since thou art the Top and Honour of hath plunged my House, art Elise and Politick, and a Friend to thy self into Friends when they stand in need of thy counsel; ^oz with the depth of thy sweet language thou canst enchant all creatures; but evill, but an all is now bootleis.

With such manner of lamentations as these, came
Grimbard unto Maleparcus, and found his Uncle Reynard
and an impud-^{m.J. chimesen} stauding at the Castle gates, who had newly gotten two
ent shew, to young Pigeons as they came creeping out of their Nest, to
try how they could learn to sive. But now beholding his Ne-
vermore his phew Grimbarde, he staid, and sa.d, Welcome my lest belo-
heart is ript ved Nephew, the only he I esteem above all my kindred:
with the sting- Surely you have run exceeding fast, for you sweat wonderfull:
of his con- ly What news man? how runs the squares at the Court? O,
fience, as oft said Grimbarde, exceeding ill with you; for you have forfeited
as he is alone, which is th- both your life, honour and estate. The King is up in arms
to tument of e- against you with Horse-men and Foot-men, and Should-
very offender ers innumerable: Besides, Negrion and Bruin are now in
more favour with his Majestie, than I am with you; there-
fore it is high-time you have great care of your self, for their
envy hath toucht you to the quick, they have informed a-
gainst you, that you are a Thief and a Purtherer: and to se-
cond their informations, Laprel the Coney, and Cor danc the
Wook have made hainous complaints against you, so that
from shameful death, I see no escape or freedom.

of Reynard the Fox.



Eush (said the Fox) my dear Neophyte, if this be the
worst, let no sorrow affright you: but let us be cheerful and
pleasant together, for though the King and all the Court
would swear my death, yet will I be exalted above them
all;

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all; Well may they prate and jangle: and tire themselves with their Counsels, but without the help of my Wit and Policy, neither can the Court or Concionerie have any long continuance. Come then my best Nephew, let us enter into my Castle, and feast; I have a pair of fat Pigeons for you, which are meat of pure and light digestion; I love not any thing better, they are Young and tender, and may be almost swallowed whole, for their bones are little other than blood; yet come, I say, my Wife Ermelin will receive you kindly, but by all means report not to her of any dangers, for she is of a soft and melting Temper, and it might strike her into sudden sickness; for Women are apt to entertain grief when we have feasted. I will then to morrow early in the morning go with you to the Court, and if I can but attain speech with the King, I shall gall some deep enough; only this I desire (dear Nephew) at your hands, that you will stand to me, as one Friend and Kinsman ought to do one by another. Doubt me not (said Grimbard) for both my life and goods shall be at your service. I thank you Nephew (said the Fox) and you shall not find me ingrateful. Sir (said the Brock) be bold of this, That you shall come and make your answer before the Lords freely, for none shall dare to Arraign or hold you, for that favour the Queen and the Laird have purchased from the King. I am glad of that (said the Fox) nor care I then a hair for their worst malice. And this said, they went to Malepardus, and found Erme in sitting amongst her younglings, who presently arose, and received the Brock with all reverence, and he on the other part saluted her and her Children with all courtesy. Presently the two Pigeons were made ready, and they sipped together, each taking their part, though none had so much as they desired: Then said the Fox, Nephew, how like you my Children Rossel and Reynardine? I hope they will do honour to our Family, they are cowardly, I assure you, for the one lately caught a Chicken, and the other hath killed a Pullet? they are all good Dowers, and can both deceive the Lapwing and the Mallard: I tell you true, I dare already

adventure

of Reynard the FOX.

adventure them far, only I mean first to instruct them how to escape the Lions, and to prevent both the Huntsman and his Hounds; they are of the right hair, Nephew, and like me both in countenance and quality; they play grinning, intangle footling, and kill smiling: This is the true nature of the Fox, and in this they are perfect, which is a great pride unto me.

C H A P. XVIII.

How the Fox repenting his Sins, doth make his Confession, and is Absolved by the Brock.

UPCILE, said the Brock, you may be proud that you have such toward Children: and rejoice because they are of my blood. I thank you Nephew, (said the Fox) but I know your Journey hath made you weary, therefore you shall go to your rest: to which the Brock consented; so they laid them down upon straw Litter, and all slept soundly; but the Fox, whose heart was heavy with sorrow, lay studying how he might best excuse himself before the King. But as soon as the morning began to rise from the top of the Mountains, he arose, and went with Grimbard towards the Court; yet before he went, he took leave of his Wife and Children: and said, Think not mine absence long (dear Wife and Children) for I must go to the Court with my Cousin Grimbard, and though my stay be more than ordinary, yet take no affright therewith, and what tidings soever you hear, yet consider all things for the best; and be careful of yourselves, and keep my Castle close, and well guarded; as for my self, doubt not but I will defeat all mine enemies. Alas Reynard (said his Wife) what moves you to take this sudden Journey? the last time you were at the Court, you knew what dangers you escaped; and you vowed never to see it again. Will you now run a second hazard? Dame (said the Fox) the occurrences of the World are divers and uncertain; and we are subject to the strokes of fortune: but rest you content, there is necessity

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that I go, and I hope my stay shall not be above five dyps at the uttermost; and so imbracing his Wife and Child; en, he took leave and departed; and as they journied over the Heath, Reynard said to the Brock, Nephew, since I was last shrieben, I have committed many sins, thereforee I beseech you let me make before you my confession, that I may pass with less trouble throught my woxst dangers.



Then

of Reynard the F O X.

Then he proceeded, and said, It is true, Nephew, that I made the Bear receive a great wound for the male which I did cut off his skin; and I caused the Wolf and his Wife to



be stript of their hoo's: I appeased the King only with false hood, I fained a conspiracy against his Majesties life by the Bear and the Wolf, when there was never any such determinacion:

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The Moral. imitation: also I repented of great Treasure to be hid in
The Fox's Hysterloe, but it was as fabulous as the rest: I flew Keward,
slaving him, and betrayed Bellin, I wounded the Concy, and kille^d Dame
Brock, shews Sharpbeak, the Books wife. Lastly, I forgot at my last
the Art of all shifte one great deceit which I committed, but I will reveal
dissimblers, it and thus it was;

which ever As I went talking with the Wolf between Houchlast, and
make devoti- Elverding, we beheld a godly Bay Mare grazing with a
on their estate. By the buying black Sole by her side, which was exceeding fat and wan-
of the Foie of ten: the Wolf at that instant was almost dead for hunger,
the Mare, is in so much that he intreated me to go to the Mare, and
shewed, that know if he would sell her Sole: I went and demanded the
men make in- question. The Mare said, she would willingly sell it for
struments of Money: I then asked the price: and she said, the price
wiser than was written in her hinder-foot, which if I pleased I
themselves and might come and read it at my pleasure; but I that well
such as a^t & not their qua- understood her politick anger, said. It is truth that I
lities, the ser- cannot read, neither do I desire to buy your Sole; only
vice they do I am a messenger from the Wolf, who hath a great de-
them is ever fire to have it. Then (said the Mare) let him come
to bring them himself, and I will give him satisfaction: Then went
&c. Also when I to the Wolf, and told him what the Mare said, assuring
ambition of him, that if he pleased he might have his belly full of the
covetousness Sole, prohibited he could read, for the price was written
blinds men, in the Mares hinder-foot. Read (said the Wolf): what
and makes them trust should aile me? I can, Cousin, read both Latin, French,
on in their English, and Dutch; I have studied in Oxford, and
own skill and argued with many Doctors; I have heard many stately
knowledge, Plays, and sitten in the place of Judgement: I have
that then they taken degrees in both the Laws; nor is there that writing
are ever sad- which I cannot decipher: So desiring me to stay for
dently over- taken with him there, a day he went to the Mare, and craved that
one misse he might see and read the price of the Sole: to which
or another the Mare consented, and lifting up her hinder-foot whch
and made a was newly shod with strong iron, and seven sharp nail-
mock and iron to their heads, as the Wolf look d theron, he smote h^t so just
foes, and such upon the sofe head, that he threw him over and over, and he
as led them lag in a dead swound wht's a man might have ridder a mile,
blindfold into and better; which done, away trod the Mare with her
Colt,

of Reynard the F O X.

Colt, and left the poor Wolf bloody and wounded, insomuch
that he howled like a Dog: then went I to him, and
said, Sir Pilgrim, Dear Uncle, how do you? have you
eaten too much of the Colt? indeed you are unkind, that
will give me no part with you. I went on your message
honestly? methinks you have out-slept your Dinner: good
Uncle tell me what was written under the mares foot? was
it in Prose or Rime? indeed I would fain know it: I think
it was a Dicke-song, for I heard you sing: nay you shew
your Scholarship in all the Arts.

Alas Reynard, (alas said the Wolf) I pray you for-
bear to disdain me, for I am extremely wounded, and
mine anguish is so great, that a heart of st^tnt would pity
me. The damned Mare on her long legg hath an iron
foot, and I took the Nails to have been Letters, on
which I looked: he hit me so full on the head. I
think my skull is cloven. Dear Uncle (said the Fox)
is this truth which you tell me? believe it, you make
me wonder; why, I took you for one of the greatest
Clarks in this Kingdom: Well, I perceive the old
Proverb is now made good in you: The greatest Clarks
are not the wisest men. Poor men sometimes may out-
strip them in Judgement; and the reason is, you great
Scholars, study so much, that you grow dull, in that
you so much over-labour. And thus with these mocks
and taunts, I brought the Wolf within a hairs breadth
to destruction. And now fair Prophet, I have unla-
ded my Conscience, and delivered as many of my sins
as I can call to remembrance; wherefore I beseech you
let me receiv^e Absolution and Penance: and then come
what chance shall at the Court, I am armed against all
dangers. Then Gimberd said, your trespasses are great
and horribles; nevertheless, who is dead must abide dead.
And therefore here I freely Absolve you, upon assurance of
your hearty repentance: only the contempt you made in
fending him Keward's head, and the abuse of so many fals-
hoods will lye heavy upon you. Why (said the Fox) be-
that will live in the wold to see this, or hear that, and
under-

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understand the third, must ever converse with affliction. No man can touch Hony, but he must lick his fingers. I often feel touches of repentance, but reason and our will are ever in continual combat; so that I oft stand still, as at my Wits end, and cry out against my sins, feeling a detestation of them; but presently the World and her vanities appear to me again: and when I find so many stones and rubs in my way, and the examples of the cras y Prelates, and rich Priests to enchant me, that I am foyrly with taken again; the World fills me with Covetousnes, and the Flesh with Wantonnes; so that losing my goode resolutions, I am only for Hell and Wickedness. I hear their Singing, Piping, Laughing, Playing, and all kind of Mirth; and I see their words and actions so contrary, that nothing is more uncertain and various: From them I learn my lyng, and from Lords, Courts my flattery: For certainly Lords, Ladies, Priests and Clerks, use most dissimulation. It is now an offence to tell great men truth: And he that cannot dissemble, cannot live. I have oft heard men speak truth, yet they have still gree'd it w th Falshood: for untruths many times happen into discourse unwillingly, and without knowledge: yet having a handsom garment, it ever goes for currant. Dear Nephew, it is now a fashion to lye, flatter, sooth, threaten, pray and curse, and to do any thing that may keep the weak in subjection; who do otherwise, is held foolish: but he that cannot whimble falsehood in truths kerchief, hath neither Art nor Cunning: but he that can do it, and deliver errore without stammering, he may do Wonders; he may wear Scarlet, Gray or Purple: he shall gain both by the Laws Spiritual and Temporal, and write himself Conquerour in every designation. There be many that imagine they can do it neatly, but their cunning oft fails them: so that when they think to feed of the fat mozzels, they slip quite besides their Trenchers. Others are blunt and foolish, and for want of method mare all their discourses; but he that can give to his lye a fit and an apt coaction, can pronounce it without rulling, and make it as truth, fair and amiable: That is the man,

of Reynard the F O X.

man, and worthy of admiration. But to speak the truth, is no cunning, it never makes the Devil laugh: to lye well and with a grace, to lift up wrong above right, to make Mountains and build Castles in the Air, to make them joggle and look thoro w their Fingers, and all for hope of gain only: This Nephew, is an Art beyond expession; yet evermore at the end cometh misery and affliction. I will not deny but sometimes men may lye or lye in small things, for he that will speak all truths, shall sometimes speak out of season. To play Placebo, may now and then be bozon with; for who so speaks always truth, shall find many rubs in his way: Men may err for need, and mend it by course, since no trespass but hath his mercy: nor any wisdom but at sometime dulleth. Then (laid the Brock) Uncle, you are so wise you cannot fail in any purpose; and I am grown inamoured of you; your reasons so far surpas my understanding, that there is no need of your shrift; for your self may both play the Priest and the Confessor: you know the world on such sort, that it is impossible for any man to halte before you.

With these and such manner of discourses, they held on these journey towards the Crut: Yet the Foxes heart (for all his fair shew) was sad and heavy; yet his countenance bewray'd it not: but he past without amazement through all the pres of the Court, even till he came to the presence of the King, and the Brock marched close by his side, saying Uncle be not afraid, but be of good cheir, it is courage of whom fortune is ever enamoured. Then (said the Fox) Nephew, you say true, and your counsel avails me: and so on he went, casting many disdainful countenances on those he lik'd not; or as who would say, here I am: what is that the proudest of you dare object against me? he beheld there many of his kin which he knew loved him not: as the Otter, the Beaver, and divers others, which I will name hereafter: and many he saw that loved him. As soon as he was come in the view of the King, he fell down humbly on his knee, and spake as followeth.

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C H A P. XIX.

How Reynard the Fox excused himself before the King,
and of the Kings answer.

THAT Divine powec from whom nothing can be hid, save
my Lord the King, and my Lady the Queen, an) give
them grace to know who hath right, and who hath wrong; soz



here

of Reynard the F O X.

there are many false shewes in the woold, and the counte-
nance bewrayeth not the heart: which I w^th were of enly
revealed, and that every creatures trespass stood written
in his fozehead, albeit it cost me the uttern.ost of my sub-
stance, or that you (my Soveraign Lord) knew me as nearly
as my self, and how I dispose my self early and late, labour-
ing in your service; For which cause only malice makes all
her complaints against me, striving to thrust me out of your
grace and favour. Insomuch, that out of my anguish I must
needs cry shame unto them which have so deadly belied me.
Nevertheles, I know that you my Lord, and Sobe-
aign Lady, are so excellent in your Judgments, that
you will not be carried away with falsehoods: and there-
fore I humbly beseech your Majesties to take into
your Wisdoms all things according to the right of your
Laws: for it is Justice I look for, and desire that he which
is guilty, may feel the weight of his punishment. For be-
lieve it, dear Lord, it shall be known before I depart from
your Court, who I am, that I cannot flatter, but will shew
my face with an unblemished fozehead.

All they that were in the presence, stood amazed, and won-
ded when the Fox spake so stoutly. But the King with a
stately countenance, said, Reynard, I know you are expert
in fallacies; but words are now too weak to relieve you; I
believe this day will be the last of your glory and disgrace:
for me, I will not chide you much, because I intend you shall
live but a short time: the love you do bear to me, you have
shewed to the Coney and the Rook, and your requital shall
be a short life on earth. The ancient saying is, A Pot may
pass long to the water, but in the end comes broken home.
And your evils have so long succeeded, that they will now
pay you the hazard. At these words Reynard was stricken
into a great fear, and wished himself far away, yet he be-
thought himself that now he must bear thozow, what fo-
tune soever came: Whereupon he said (My Soveraign
Lord the King) it is but Justice that you hear me answere
my accusations; for were my faults more hainous than
Eny can make them, yet Equity gives the accused leue

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ever to answer. I have with my counsels done you service in former time, and may no less still: I have never started from your Majesty, but walked by your side, when others have gone from your presence: if then my enemies with their ladders shall prevail against me, blame me not to come lain. Time hath been, it was otherwise, and time may bring it to the old course; for the actions of good servants ought not to be forgotten. I see here divers of my kindred and friends, which now make no value of me, whom I can prove go about to despise you of the best Servant you possess. Can your Majesty imagine, if I had been guilty in the least imagined crime, that I would thus voluntarily have made my appearance, even in the throng of mine enemies? O it had been too much indiscretion; nor would the liberty I had, been so easily subiect. But Heaven be thanked, I know mine innocence, and dare affront my worst enemy. Yet when my kinsman Grimbarre first brought me the Tidings, I must confess I was half distracted with anger; and had I not been in the censure of the Church, I had appeared ere they had left complaining; but that detained me. And I wandered with sorrow on the Heath, till I met with my Uncle Martin the Ape, who far exceeded any Priest in Pastoral busyness, for he hath been Attorney to the Bishop of Carlbrick anptime this nine years: and seeing me in this great agony of heart, he said, Dear Cousin, why are you thus heavy in spirit? and why is your countenance dejected? grief is easier to carry, when the burden is divided amongst friends: For the nature of a true friend, is to behold and relieve that which anguish will not suffer the oppressed to see or suffer. Then I answered him, you say true, Dear Uncle, and the like is my fortune; for sorrow is without cause laid upon me; and of that I am not guilty, I am accused by those I ranked with my best friends; as namely, the Coneys who came yesterday to my house as I was saying Masses, saying he was travelling towards the Court, but was at that time both hungry and weary, and therefore requested of me some meat: I willingly consented, took him in, and gave him a couple of Marchets, and sweet Butter: For it was on Wednesday, on which day I never eat flesh. Besides it was then

of Reynard the FOX.

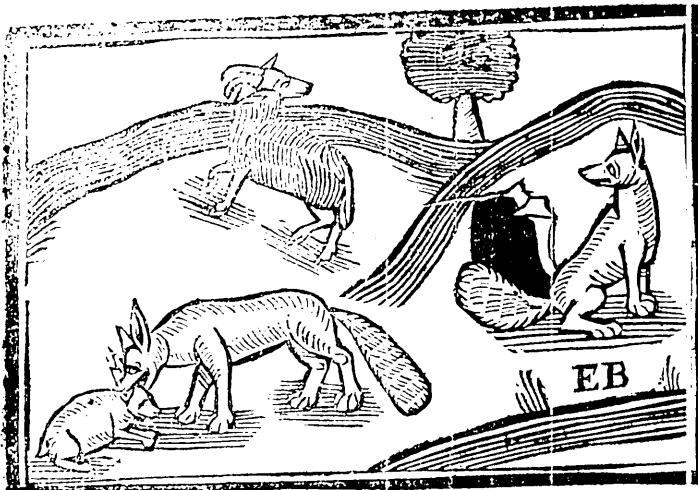
then a fast, by reason the Feast of Whitson tide was near. The More! At which we must have cleansed and prepared hearts, Et vos The boldnes estote Parati. Now when he had almost well refresht himself, of the Foxes appearance & speech, shews the impudence of a desperate offender, that having no thing but his own boldnes to bolster out his cause, still cries for Justice; and cares not so much to excuse himself, as to accuse others, & by digressions and extravagant speech to bring all those into disgrace which are able to testify anything against him. By the tale of the Apes going for him to Rome, and his threatening the King, is shewed the ignorance and softish mindnes of the old times; which would that Kings under the Popes curse, and maketh them subject to his Commands, though they fell down in a swound, which when as Reynardine (my elder Son) were never so



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ever eating and craving.) But presently the Coneys smote Rossel on the mouth, that his teeth bled, and the poore fool fell down in a swound, which when as Reynardine (my elder Son) were never so

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Diabolical! By Son! behold, he forthwith leapt to the Coney, and caught his execusing him by the head, and questionless had slain him, had I not himself of the come to the rescue. Which done, I went and gave my Son correction for his fault. But presently Laprel the Coney and the Rook, is posse to my Lord the King, and informs, that I (my shewed, that self) sought means to murther him. Thus I am accused whosoever is without cause, and brought in danger, that in truth resolved to do have best cause to accuse others. But nor long an ill act will never make after, came Corbant the Rook flying to my house conscience to with a sad noise, and I demanding what he ailed? tell aloud ly, He answered, Alas, my Wifē is dead. I craved nor is he ever the cause, he said, A dead Hare lying on the Heath full of unprovided Works and Armin, of which he had eaten so much, that thereof, because they are the Woorms had grawed her throat insunder; and with the garment out speaking to me any more words, away he flet, leaving me much amazed, and now reports that I slew his Wifē, slouths his knavery with. By the Aues the scety in the air, and I walk a foot on the ground? Thus friends in Rome, as Simon or S.

of Reynard the F O X.

dear Uncle you may see how I am handled, but it may *marie*, *Pene* be it is for my old sins, and therefore I bear it with more *Tout*, or *Take*- patience. Then said the Ape to me, Nephew, you *Scith*, or *Dochall* go to the Court and disprove their falsehoods. *mischief*, is Alas, Uncle (quoth I) it cannot be, for the Archdeacon hath put me in the Popes curse, because I gave countenancē wickedness of self to the Wolf to forsake his holy Orders, when he *Rome*, and how complained to me of his unblenels to endure that life by marsh life, and much fasting; of which Act I now much repent me, means a man since he repayed my love with nothing but hatred and mis-might partie, and with all the flanders he can invent, stirring his thing he went *Majesty* daily against me. These things (dear Uncle) about. By his bring me to my Wits end; for of necessity I must go to insinuating *Rome* for *Absolution*; and in mine absence, what injury with the Apes may happen to my Wifē and Children through the malice then a great of these bloody wretches, any one may guess: Whereas on favorite about the other part, were I but free of the Popes curse, the Queen, is then I could go to the Court, and plead my own cause, shewed the art and turn their malice into their own bosoms.

Then said the Ape, Cousin, cast off your sorro'v, for I gan hunting to know the way of *Rome* well, and am experienced in these strong party businesse; for I am called the Bishops Clark, therefore I will not have will go thither, and enter a plea against the Archdeacon, my late invention; for and in spite of him will bring you from the Pope a well *Absolution*.

But man, I have many great friends there, as my Wifē dare not the cle Simon, and others, Pen-Sto t, Wait-Scath, and the like, inferior ope all which will stand unto me: besides, I will not go unlurk^{their lips}: By nished of money, for I know *Priators* are best heard with the flight of gifts, and the Law hath no feet to walk on but money: A the Rook, is true friend is tryed in necessity, and you shall find me shewed how without dissembling; therefore cast off your grief, and go soon the weak to the Court as soon as you can, for I will presently to are terrified Rome, and in the mean time here I quit you of all your sins and with the offences, and only put them upon my self: when you come threatnings of to the Court, you shall find there Dame Rakew my Wifē, the strong and her two Sisters and my three Children, with divers others mighty; that of our Family, I pray you salute them from me, and he w^{tis better to} fit down with them mine occasions: my Wifē is exceeding Wifē, and wrong, than the ^{re} contend

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with one that holdeth too strong a party: And also how by such advantage the Lyens taft heart, & there on grounds the strength of his greater Interdiction, till you have Right and Justice restored you.

He shall find that her distressed friends shall not shrink when I can help them. I know she is faithful, and, as behoves her, will never leave her friend in danger.

At the uttermost, if your oppression be moze than you can have, send presently to me to Rome, and not an enemy that you bear, be it King or Queen, or Subject, even from the highest to the lowest, but I will presently put them in the Popes curse, and send back such an

accusations, & the Foxes directions, is very old, and little regarded; only now Cardinal Pare-Gold beareth all the sway in the Country, as being shewed that young and rich in many friends: Besides he hath a Concubine, of whom he is so far enamoured, that he denies nothing she demandeth. His Lady is my Neece, and will stand up against the do whatsoever I request her: therefore Cousin, go boldly wicked, that to the King, and charge him to do you Justice, which I ther studying know he will, since he understands, the Laws are made for with his own confidence, he is able to abide no longer.

This (my Sovereign Lord the King) when I heard him speak, I smild, and with great joy came hither to silence and relate unto you the truth: Therefore if you, or any Creature within this Court, can charge me with any trespass whatsoever, and prove it by testimony, as the Law requireth, or else otherwise he will appose himself against me, person to person; grant me but a day and equal lists, and in combatte I will maintain my innocency against him, provided he be equal to me in birth and degree: this Law hath ever hitherto stood constent, and I hope neither in me, for me, or by me, it shall now be broken.

When all the assenbley of Beasts heard this, they were dumb and amazed to behold his stoutness. As for the Coney and the Rock, they were so scared, they durst not speake, but privately stole away out of the Court, and being far on the plain, they said, This devillish murtherer hath such Art in his falsehood, that no truth can look with better

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of Reynard the F O X.



countenance, which only our selves know, but have no other witness; therefore it is better we depart, than try combate with him, which is so much too strong for us, and so away they went.

Isegrim the Wolf, and Bruin the Bear, were very sad when they saw these two forslake the Court: whereupon the King said, If any will impeach the Fox, let him come forth, and he shall be heard: Yesterdag we were laden with complaints, where are they to day? Here is the Fox ready to answer.

Then said the Fox, My Sovereign Lord, absence makes impudent accusers bold, when presence daunts them, as your Highness may see both by the Coney and the Rock: what it is to trust the malice of these Cowards! and how soon they may confound good men! but for me, it matters not: nevertheless had they (at your Majesties commandement) but ask'd me forgiveness, I had quickly eas'd all their offences behind me, for I will never shake hands with char-

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rity ; nor never hate or complain of mine enemies : my revenge I leave to heaven, and Justice to your Majesties. Then said the King, Reynard you speak well, if thi inward heart be like the outward shew; yet I fear your grif is not so much as you exprest it: It far surmounts it, said the Fox: No, quoth the King: for I must charge you with one foul treason, Which is, when I had pardoned all your great transgressions, and you had promised me to go a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: when I had furnished you with mace, with staff, and all things fitting that holy Order, then in the greatest contempt you sent me back in the mace by Bellin the Ram, the Head of Kuyward the Hare, a thing so notoriously to my disgrace and dishonour, that no treason can be fouler. This you have no colour to deny, for Bellin (our Chaplain) at his death revealed th: whole procel; and the same reward which he then gained, the same you shall receive, or else right shall fail me.

At this sentence Reynard grew so sore afraid, that he knew not what to say, but looked with a pitiful countenance upon all his kindred which stood round about him; his colour went and came, and his heart fainted, but none lent him either hand or foot to help him: When the King said, Thou dissembling and false traitor, why art thou now so dumb? But the Fox being full of anguish, fetcht a sigh as if his heart would have broke; so that every beast pitied him, save only the Bear and the Wolf, which rejoyned to see his sorrow.

C H A P. XX.

How Dame Rukenaw answered for the FOX to the King, and of the Parable she told him.

Dame Rukenaw the he-Ape (being Aunt unto Reynard and a great favourite of the Queens) was much grieved when she saw this distraction, and it was well for the Fox that she was in the presence: for she was exceeding wise, and durst boldly speak; and therefore rising up (after reverence done) she said, My Lord the King, you ought not to be pess-

with

of Reynard the FOX.



with anger, when you sit in Judgment, for it becometh not nobility to be void of reason: it is discretion which should only accompany you in that season: for mine own part, I think I know the Laws as well as some which wear furred Gowns, for I read many, and put some in use. It is well known, I had ever in the Hopes Palace a bed of straw, when other Beasts lay on the bare ground, and I was ever suffered to speak freely without interruption; because

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The Moral. cause I talk not beyond my experience. It is Seneca's By the ~~the~~ opinion, that Princes are bound to do Justice to all men; ~~to~~ Fox nor may the Law waver or halt with any partitulity. I ~~ing for the Fox~~ do not think but if every man which standeth here, should not seek wo call to an account ali the actions of his life, he could men ~~me~~ to be not chuse but pity much the estate of my poor kinsman flattered into Reynard; and therefore I wish every one to know himself, any better in ~~Reynard~~; for none so sure but they may fall; and for him that ne may either ex- do amiss and mend it by counsel, is humane and man- per erred, he is so good he needeth no amendment. To gry, Alas it shews, the ve devilish and insufferable: the Holy Book saith, Be merciful rising or the and judge not, lest you be judged; and in another place, old Proverb, when the Pharisees brought a Woman taken in adultery, That is friend and would have stoned her to death, asked our Lord what in Court, is e- he said thereto? he answered, Which of you all is without ver worth a sin, let him cast the first stone: But they all departed and left inns Purse her; In mine opinion, it is so here to day; for here be By the vio- many that find straws in others eyes, but see not the beams lence of her in their own: he that falleth oft, and in the end ariseth defence, is and cometh to mercy, cannot be said to be damned: good- shewed the ness never forsaketh her own servants. This I counsel true nature of a woman, that would some take to their hearts, the day would not appear evermore runs so dark as it doth to my Cousin Reynard. It is well known in extremis that his Grandfather and Father ever bare greater re- may do the putation in this Court, then either Brum or Ilgrim, or good or evil their whole generation. Alas, when have their Counsels, the intends, or Widsoms been worthy to have held comparison with those will not keep of my Cousin Reynard? why, the passages of the World are anything con- cerned which to them Prophesies, which they understand not; and the may any way Court is turned topsie-turvy by his absence: the evil are made for her now advanced, and the good suppressed; but how this purpose, nor can long endure, I see not; since the end of thei: labour, yet an thing is but the ruin of your Majesty.

which may disgrace those that are of the *To this speech the King made this answer; Dame, had the For done that offence to you, as he hath done to others, your contrary intention, as may appear by the tale to hate him, since it is only he which breaketh my Laws and Cope-*

of Reynard the FOX.

Covenants: you have heard him accused of Theft, Murther of the Man and Treason, howe can you then defend him? if you will and the Ser- needs make him your Saint, then set him upon the Altar, she sheweth and do him Worship; but believe it, there is no one good thing in him: and howeber you imagine, yet search him, the Fox, and and you shall find him rotten and deformed; there is neither the folly and kinsman nor friend (but your self) that will assit him, and therefore your violence draweth my greater wonder. What Bear, the Wolf and the rest of companion hath he that ever thrived by his Society? or whom hath he smil'd on, that his tail hath not after dash't out the eye of?

To this the Cheape replied, My Lord, I love him, and have ever born him a singular reverence; and I can well recount one noble and good action he did in your presence, for which you then thanked him, though now forgotten: yet the heaviest thing should ever weigh the most; and men should keep a measure in their affections, and not hate, nor love with violence; since constancy is the greatest ornament of a Princely nature. We should not praise the day till the evening come; nor is good counsel available, but to those which mean to pursue it.

I remember about some two years since, there came to this Court a man and a Serpent to have Judgment in a doubtful controverie. For the Serpent attempting to go through a hedge, was taken by the neck with a snare, so that there was no way to escape with life: a certain man passing by, the Serpent called and cried unto him, and desired his help, or he should perish presently. The man taking pity of him said, If thou wilt faithfully promise me neither to do me hurt with thy tooth or tail, or other weapon about thee, I will release thee. The Serpent presently swoze he would not, neither at that time, nor any time hereafter: so the man unloosed him, and set him free, and they went forth and travelled together a long seafon.

At last the Serpent grew exceeding hungry, and rushing upon the man, offered to kill him: but the man started aside, and said, what meanest thou to do? hast thou forgotten

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thine Dath? the Serpent replied, No, but I may justly kill thee, since I am compelled thereto by hunger which cancelleth all obligations. Then the man said, If it be so, yet give me leave to live till we may meet with the next passenger, which may judge the controversie.

The Serpent agreed thereto; so they travelled till they met with Tisellen the Raven, and Slinopere his son: to whom relating the difference, the Raven adjudged that the Serpent

of Reynard the F O X.

pent shoulde eat the man, hoping that he and his son shoulde get a share also. But the man said, How shall he that is a robber, and lives by blood, judge the cause? It must not be one, but divers, and such as know both Law and Equity, that must judge this contention: the Raven is neither just, nor indifferent.

Then they travellled till they met the Bear and the Wolf, unto whom also they told the matter, and they adjudged against the man likewise. Then the Serpent began to cast his Venom at the man; but the man leaped away, and said, You do me wrong thus to attempt to kill me: and the Serpent said, Hath not Judgment gone twice on my side? Yes, said the man, by such as are Murtherers themselves, and such as never kept promise; but I appeal to the Court, let me be tryed by your King, and what Judgment he giveth, I will willingly abide. So this all consented: So they came to the Court before your Majesty, and the Wolfs two Children came with their Father, the one was called Empty-Belly, the other Navel-full, because they sought to devour the man. So the full proces of the matter was declared to your Majesty: but the mans kindness and covenant, the Serpents danger and Faith-breach, occasioned throught the extremity of hunger. Remember how much your Highness was perplexed with their difference, and all your Councill also: For the mans sorrow, the Serpents hunger: the mans goodness, and the Serpents ingratitude, equally raised much pity in your bosome. But in the end, such doubts rose, that not any in your Court was able to judg it. At the last, when no help could be found, then you command my Rinsinan Reynard to decide the busyness: then was he Oracle of the Court, noz was any thing received, but what he propounded? But he told your Majesty that it was impossible to give true Judgment according to their relations; but if he might see the Serpent in what manner he was fettered, and the greatness of his danger, then he knew well how to give Judgment therein. Then you commended him, and called him by the title of Lord Reynard, approving that to be done whiche he had spoken.

Then

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Then went the Man and the Serpent to the place where the Serpent was snar'd, and Reynard commanded the Serpent to be fassined as before in the snickle, which being done, then said your Majestye, Reynard, what Judgment will you now give? and he replied, They are now, my Lord, in the



fame estate they were before at their first encounter: they have neither won nor lost: Therefore this is my censure, if it be your Majesties pleasure, if the man will now loose and unbind the Serpent, upon the same promise and Dath made formerly unto him, he may at his pleasure: But if he think that hunger or other inconvenience will make him break his Faith, then may the Man freely go whether he will, and leave the Serpent bound and intchalld as he first found him: for it is fit that ingratitude be so repudid. This Judgement your Majestye then applauded for the most excellent, and held the Wisdom of the Fox unimitable, terming him

of Reynard the F O X.

him the preserber of your Honour. When did ever the Bear, or Wolf the like? they can holde, or scold, steal, rob, and eat fat morsels, make their guts crack with others ruines; and condonin him to death which takes a Chicken; but themselves which kill Kine, Dren, and Hozles, & they go safe, and be accounted as wise as Solomon, Avicen, or Aristotle, and their Deeds and Statutes must be read for Monuments. But if they come where Virtue is to be exercised, they are the first which retreat, and let the simple go foremost whilist they follow in the Rear with shame and cowardise. These (my Lord, and the like) are the fools of these corrupt times, yet destroy Towns, Castles, Land and People: nor care they whose house burneth, so they may warm them by the fire: for it is their profit only at which their aim bendeth. But Reynard the Fox, and all his family, have ever made the Honour of the King their renown and advancement, and applied their counsel to do him service, not pride and boasting: This hath been and is his exercise, though it now be thankless. But time I hope will produce whose merit is greatest: Your Majestye says, his kindred is fallen from him, and start at his fortune: would any but your Highnesse have affirmed it, you shoud then have seen there could not be a thing of greater falsehood: But your Grace may say your pleasure, nor will I in any word oppose you: for to him that so durst do, would both he and we bend our forces. It is known we dare fight, nor are we descended of any base generation: Your Highnesse may call to mind the worth of our Pedigree, and how dearly from time to time they have respected him, willing even to lay down their lives and goods for the safetey of their noblekinsman Reynard. For mine own part, I am one my self; and albeit I am the wife of another, yet for him I would not kick to spend my dearest blood: Besides, I have thre full grown Childzen, which are known, valiant and strong in Arms, yet for his sake I would adventure them all to the uttermost peril, albeit I love them with that dear affection that no Mother doth exceed me: my first born is called Bitelas, which is

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most active and nimble; my second Fulcrum; the thir' is a daughter called Hartanet, a girl that can lock a mans head, and pick out Lice moze nimbly than all the Combs in Christendom: and these thre are loving and dear to one another: and with that he called them forth unto her, and said, Come my dear Children, and stand with your Kinsman the



Noble Reynard; and with you come all the rest of our nient family, and be all Petitioners to the King, that he will do to Reynard the equity of his Laws and Kingdom. Then presently came forth a world of other Beasts, as the Squirrel, and the Ferret: for these love Pullen as well as Reynard both; Then came the Otter and Pentecote his Wife, which I had almost forgotten, because in former time they had taken part with the Bear against the Fox, but now they dare not, but obey Dame Rukewaw, for they stood in awe of her wisdom and greatness: and with these came above twenty other

of Reynard the F O X.

other Beasts for her sake, and stood by Reynard. Then came also Dame Arrot and her two sisters, the Weasel, and Hamel the Ass, the Brock, the Water-Cat, and many others, to the number of almost an hundred, and stood by Reynard, with such affection, as if his trouble did equally concern them. Then said the He-Ape, My Lord the King, now you may see my Kinsman hath friends that dare above him; and we are your true and loyal Subjects, which will never fail to do you faithful service. Therefore let us with one voice beg of your Majesty, that Reynard may have Justice; and if he be not able to disprove his adversary, and clear the crimes imputed against him, let the Law pass, for we will not murmur to see his Destruction.

Then said the Queen to Rukenaw, Thus much I told unto his Majesty yesterday, but his anger was so great, he would not give ear to me. Also the Libard said, Sir, you must judge according to witness: for to be governed by will is tyrannous and ignoble. Then answered the King, It is true you inform me; but the disgrace done to my particular self in Kaywards death, and other informations, robb'd me of patience, that I had no leisure to look back either to Law, or Reason: Therefore now let the Fox speak boldly, and if he can justly acquit himself of the crimes laid against him, I shall gladly restore him his liberty, and the rather for you his dear friends sake, whom I have ever found faithful and loyal.

¶ how infinitely glad was the Fox when he heard these words, and said in himself, Thanks my noble Aunt a thousand times, thou hast put new Blooms on my dry'd Ro-les, and set me in a fair path to liberty. I have one good foot to dance on; and I doubt not but to use my Art of dissimulation so bravely, that this day shall be remembred for my renown and victory.



E·B

C. H. A. P. XXI.

How Reynard excused himself of Kaywards Death,
and all other imputations; got the Kings favour
and made Relation of certain Jewels.

Then spake Reynard the Fox to the King, and said, Alas
My Sovereign Lord, what is that you said? Is god Kay-
ward the Bare dead? Or where is then Bellin the Ram? or
what did he bring to your Majesty at his return; for it is
certain, I delivered him three rich and inestimable Jewels,
I would not for the wealth of India they should be retained
from you: the chief of them I directed to you my Lord the
King, the other two to my Sovereign Lady the Queen.
But (said the King) I received nothing but the Head of
poor murthered Kayward, for which I executed the Ram, ha-
ving contest the deed to be done by his abvce and coulse. Is
this truth (said the Fox)? then wo is me that eve: I was
born; for there are lost the goodliest Jewels that evr were
in

of Reynard the F O X.

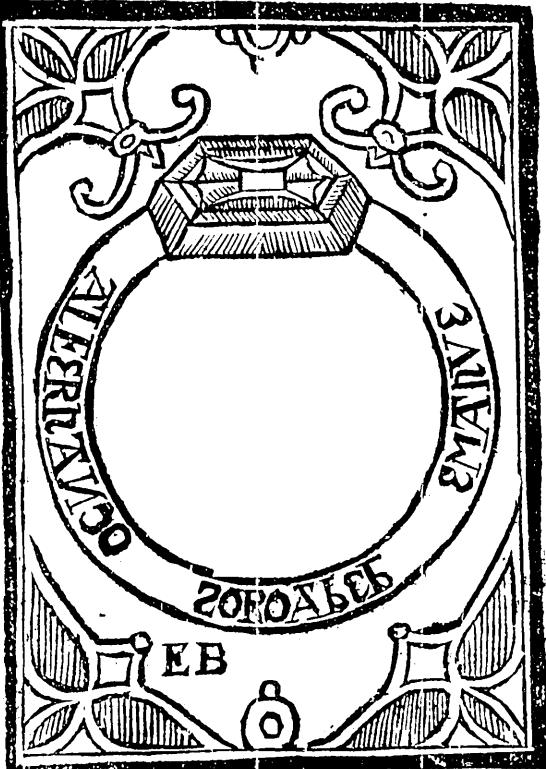
in the possession of any Prince living: would I had died
when you were thus defrauded. For I know it will be
the death of my Wife, nor will she ever henceforth esteem
me. Then said the he-Ape, Dear Reynard, why should
you sorrow thus for transitory Wealth? let them go,
only discourse what manner of Jewels they were, it may
be we shall find them again, if not, the Magician M.
Alkarin shall labour his Books, and search a'l the corners
of the earth. Besides, whosoever retains them, shall
be cursit in all Parishes, till he restore them to the Kings
Majesty. D' Anat (said the Fox) do not persuade your
self so: for whosoever hath them, will not restore them
to gain an Empire, they are so goodly and preecious:
yet your words do somethng appease me. But whom
shall we trust in this corrupt age, when even Sanctity it
self walks maskit and mistaken? And then fetching a deep
sigh, with which he gilded his disimulation, he proceeded
on, and said, Hearken all you of my Stock and Lineage,
for I will here discover what these rich Jewels were, of
which both I and the King are defrauded. The first of
them (and which indeed I intended to his Majesty) was
a Ring of fine and pure Gold, and within this Ring next
the finger, were engraven Letters enamelled with Azure
and Sabes, containing three Hebrew names; for my
own part I could neither read nor spell them: But M.
Abron of Trete, the excellent Linguist, who knoweth the na-
ture of all manner of Herbs, Beasts, and Minerals,
to this famous Jew I hewed the Ring once, and he as-
sured me, that they were those thre Names which Seth
brought out of Paradise, when he brought to his
Father Adam the Dyl of Mercy. And whosoever shall
wear these thre Names about him, shall never be hurt
by Thunder and Lightning, neither shall any Witch-
craft have power over him: He shall not be tempted to
do any sin, neither shall heat or cold eber annoy him.
Upon the top of the Ring was encast a most preecious
Stone of thre several colours; The first like red Chry-
stal, and glittering like fire, and that with such bright-
ness, that if one had occasion to journey by Night,

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The Moral.

By the relation which the Fox made of the Jewels and their several virtues and riches, is shewed the policy of the wicked, which are ever prepared of those baits which they know will soonest catch the minds of them they are to intangle: as wealth, health, honour, and virtue, all which are to be lodged in those Jewels. As for the fancies contained in them, the Fox doth moralize them himself shewing in them severally, the imputations he would have the Lion know to be in his enemy, and such examples are

evermore bit the light thereof was so great as that at Noon-day. Tho: out ter, and work their colour was white and clear, as if it had been burnish'd; more in the and the virtue of it was to cure any blemish or soorenese in the heart, than any eyes, or any part of the body: Also (by stroaking the place grieved therewithal) it presently cured all manner o' swell- or invection lings, head-aches, or any sickness whatsoever; whether it were



of Reynard the F O X.

were venom, weakness of Stomach, Collick, Stone, Stras: what ever. By gullion, Fistula, or Canker, either outwardly applied as a cold & instant cure therewd, or inwardly, by steeping the Stone in water: the service, and then drinking the same. The last colour was green is shewed like grass, mixt with a few small spots of purple: and the subtle learned affirmed for truth, that whosoever wears this stone about him, could never be vanquished by his enemies; and that no creature, were he never so strong and hardy, but sent crimes, would yield unto him, and he should be victor day and night e.ill to mind in all places. Again, as far as one bore it fasting, into their good what company soever he chanced (were they his worst ene. so much for mises) yet shold he be of them infinitely beloved, nor the memory of should any angry or ill turn be remembred: Also if one shold the good ex- be naked in a vast wide Field, against an hundred armed e. ample, as to- nemies, yet shold not his heart fail him, but he shold beg a new re- come off with Honour and Victory: only he must be No- it have been ward, though bled, and of no churlish disposition; for the King never so often gave no virtue to any which was not a true Gentle- paid for; for man. Now all these virtues considered, I thought my noble spirits self unworthy to keep it: and therfore I sent it to you tenderfeeling, my Lord the King, knowing you to be the most excellent of all creatures living; and one on whom all our lives de- toucht with pend, and therefore fittest to be guarded with so rich a the remem- brance of any Jewel.

This King I found in my Fathers Treasure: and in the same place also I found a Comb, and a Glass Mir- received, for it rour, which my Wife desired of me: they were Jewels on they seldom cancel. of great wonder and admiration: these were sent to my Lady the Queen, because of her grace and mercy extended towards me: to speak of the Comb, it can never be too much praised, for it was made of the bone of a Noble Beast named Panthera, which liveth between the greater India and earthly Paradise, he is so goodly and fair of colour, that there is no beautiful colour under Heaven but some splendor therof appears in him: also the smell of him is so delicate, sweet and wholesome, that the very labour cureth all infirmities; and for his excellent beauty and rare odour, all other Beasts attend and follow him, for he is the Physician to all their sicknesses. This Panthera hath one fair

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Fair bone broad and thin, which whensoever this Beast is
bain, and the virtues of the whole Beast do rest in that bone
which can never be broken, neither ever rot, consume or per-
ish, either by water, fire, or other violence: yet it is so light,



a small feather may poise it: the smell of it hath that vertue,
that whosoever scents it, taketh delight in no other smell
whatsoever, and they are presently eas'd of all manner of
diseases and infirmities, and the heart is cheerful and mer-
ry ever after.

This Comb is polished like unto fine Silver, and the teeth
of it be small and straight; and between the great teeth
and the small, in a large field or space, there is graten many
an Image subtilly made, and cunnigly enamell'd about
with fine Gold: the field is chequer'd with Sables and Silver,
and enamell'd with Sybor and Azure: and therein is con-
tained the stroy how Venus, Juno, and Pallas, strove for the
golden Ball in the Mountain Ida, and how it was put to Pa-
ris to give it to the fairest of them.

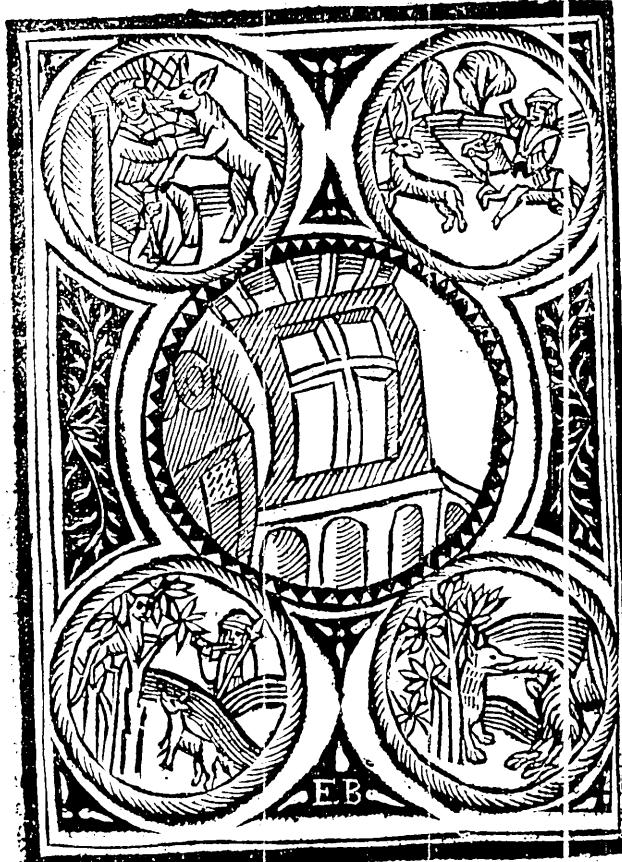
Paris

of Reynard the Fox.

Paris at that time was a Shepard, and kept his Flocks
with Onone, on that hill; and as soon as he had received the
Ball, Juno promised if he would belyow it on her, she
would make him the richest man in the World. Pallas
sa d, That if he might have it, to make him the wolest man
in the World, and the most fortunate against his enemies.
But then Venus said, what needest thou wealth, wisdom, or
valour? Art thou not Priamus son, and Hectors brother, which
habe all Asia under their power? Art thou not one of the
Heirs of mighty Troy? come give me the Ball, and I will
givethe thee the goodliest treasure of the World, and that shall
be the fairest Lady breathing; she, whose like no Sun shall
ever again beheld: so shalt thou be richer then riches, and
climb above all in glory: that's is the wealth none can praise
too much, since beauty is that heavenly Elixir, which turns
all things into joy and contentment.

When Paris heard this, he desired to know the Lady?
and Venus said, It is Hellen of Grece, the wife of King
Menelaus; she that is Jew of the World, the treasure
of beauty, and the glory of all eyes which did behold her:
then presently Paris gave her the Ball, and consir'd her
fairest then the other Goddesses. Then another place was
figured how he won Hellen, brought her to Troy, the solemn-
ity at the Marriage, the honour of the Triumphs, and
all things else contained in that large stoy;

Now for the Glass-mirrour, it was not inferiour to ei-
ther of the other: for the glass that stood thereon, was of
such vertue, that men might see and perceive therein what-
soever was done within a mile thereof, whether it was
the actions of man, or beast, or any thing else the own-
er should desire to know; and whosoever but gazed there-
in, if he had any malady whatsoever, it was presently
cured. So great were the vertues of this rare Glass,
that wonder not if I shed tears to think of the loss:
for the wood in whch this Glass stood, was light and
fast, and is called Ounc, it will last ever: for worms,
dust, wet, nor time can coralline it, and therefore King Sol-
omon sealed his Temple with the same: the value far exceed-
ing



E.B.

ing that of gold it is like to the wood Hebenus, of which King Crampart made a Horse, for the love of the most beautiful daughter of King Moreadiges. This Horse was made with such art within, that whosoever rode on it, if he pleased, he would

of Reynard the F O X.

would run above an hundred miles in less than an hour, which was approued by Clamaedes the Kings son; who not believing in the Engine, and being young and lusty, leapt upon the Horse, and presently Crampart turning a pin that stood in the Breast of the Engine, moved and went out of the Palace through the Windows, and in the first minute he was gone at least ten miles. Clamaedes was much affrighted at the wonder, and imagined (as the story said) that he shold never have returned back again: But of his long journey, much fear, great trouble, and infinite joy, when he had learned to manage and govern the wooden Beast. I leave to speak for tediousnes sake; only the high vertue of all issued from the wood.

Of this wood the Glass-case was made, being larger than the Glass by half a foot and moze, square; upon which verge was decyphered divers many strange Histories in Gold, in Silver, Sables Yellow, Azure and Cyanope: and these colours were very curiously wrought and interlaid together, and under each History the words so engraven and enamelled, that any man myght read the whole story: believe it, the World never produced a thing of greater worth, luster or pleasure. In the upper part thereof stood a Horse in his natural glory, fat, fair, and stierp, which brayed a stately Hart which ran before him: but seeing he could not overtake this Hart in swiftness, at which he infinitely disdained, he went to a herdsman standing by, and told him if he would help him to take a Hart which he would shew him, he shold have all the profit of the conquest, as the horns, skin, and flesh: Then the Herdsman asked him what means he shold use to get him: the Horse said, Mount upon my back, and I will bear thee after him, till with tiring we take him. The Herdsman took his offer, and bestriding the Horse, followed the Deer; but he fled away so fast, and got so much ground of the Horse, and with much labour the Horse, grew weary, and he bade the Herdsman light, for he would rest him a while. But the Herdsman said, I have a bridle on thy head, and spurs on my heels, therefore know thou art now my servant, neither will I part with thee, but govern thee as seems best to my pleasure. Thus

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the Horsē brought himself into thraldom, and was taken in his own net: for no creature hath a greater adversary than his own envy; and many which labour the hurt of others, still fall upon their own ruins.

In another part was figured an Aſſe and a Hound, which were both the ſervants of a rich man. This man loved his Hound exceedingly, and would oft play with him, and ſuffer the dog to fawn and leap upon him, and now and then to lick him about the mouth. Now when Bauldwin the Aſſe ſaw this, he began to envy the Hound, and ſaid, What ſees my Maſter in this foul Hound, that he suffers him thus to leap upon him and kiss him? I ſee no profitabie ſervice he doth him; I labour, bear and draw, and do moare ſervice in one week, than the dog and his whole kind are able to do in a year, and yet have I not the tythe of his laboris: for he ſitteth by his trencher, eats the fat of his meat, and lies on Carpets and Pillows: when I that do all am fed only with Pettles and Thiffles: well, I will no longer indure it, but I will ſtudie to haue my Lord's labour as much as the Hound, if not in greater meaſure. Anon the Maſter of the house came home, and the Aſſe lifting up his tail, leapt with his foote feet on his mouth to kiss him, and uſed ſuch rude unmannerly actions, that he rub'd all his ſkin from his Maſter's ears, and almoſt overthrew him: ſo that the man was forc'd to cry out, Help, help, for this Aſſe will kill me. Then come in his ſervants with ſlasses, and beat the Aſſe ſo exceedingly, that he was almoſt slain: whiche done, he returned to his ſtall again, and was an Aſſe as he was before. In the ſame manner, they which do envy at d ſpight at others welfare, if they receive the ſame reward, t is nothing moare than is due to their merit: for an Aſſe is an Aſſe, and was born to eat Thiffles: and where Aſſes govern, there order is never obſerved; for they haue no eye either on this ſide, or beyond their own private profit: yet ſometimes they are aduanced, the moare is the pity.

In another part was figured the Stoɔy, how my Father and Tibert the Cat traveleſſ together, and had ſworn by their troth, that neither for love nor hate they would depart one from the other: but it happened on a time, they ſaw Hun-

of Reynard the FOX.

ters coming over the fields with a Kennel of Hounds, from which they fled apace, for their lives were in danger. Then ſaid the Fox, Tibert whither hall we lie; for the Hunters haue eſpied us: for my own part, I haue a thouſand wiles to escape them, and as long as we abide together, we ſhall not need to fear them. But the Cat began to ſigh, and was exceedingly afriad, and ſaid, Reynard, what need many words? I haue but one wile, and that muſt help me; and forthwith he clambered up to the top of a high Tree, where he lurk'd amongst the leaves, that neither Huntsman nor Hounds could hurt him, and left my Father to abide the whole hazard, for the whole Kennel pursued him. Hounds and Hallows echoing after him, Kill the Fox, kill the Fox.

This when Tibert ſaw, he mocked my Father, and ſaid, Now Couſin Reynard, it is time to let loſe all your wiles; for if your Wit fail you, I fear your whole body will periſh. This my Father hearing from him he moſt truſted, and being then in the height of his purſuit wearied, and almoſt spent, he let his male ſlip from his ſhoulders, to make himſelf ſo much lighter: yet all abail'd not, for the Hounds were ſo ſwift they had caught him, had he not by chance eſpied a hole into which he entred, and escaped the Hounds and Huntsmen. Then you may ſee the falſe faith of the Cat, like whom there may be many living at this time; and though this might well excuse me from loving the Cat, yet my ſouls health and charity binds me to the contrary, and I wiſh him no hurt, though his miſfortunes ſhall never be grievous to me: not ſo much for hatred, as the remembrance of his injuries, which often contends againſt my reaſon.

Also in that Gircour ſtands another Hiſtory of the Wolf, how on a time he found upon a Heath a dead Horsē, whose ſiell being eaten away, he was fain to gnaw and devour the bones; which he did with ſuch greedines, that swallowing them too hauily down, one fell to croſs his throat, that he was almoſt choak'd, and hardly escap'd with life: whereupon he ſought every place for the cuſtineſt Surgeon, promiſing him great giſts to eaſe his torments: but hauiſg lost much labour, in the end he met with the Crane,

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and besought him with his long neck and bill to hel^v him, and he would highly reward him. The Crane greedy of gain, put in his head into the Wolfs throat, and brought out the bone. The Wolf started at the pull, and cried out aloud, Thou hurt'st me, but I do forgive thee: yet do it not again I charge thee, for at another's hands I would not bear it: then the Crane said, Sir Isegrim, go and be frollick, you are whole, I look for no more but the reward you promised me: How (said the Wolf) what impudence is this? I suffer and have cause to complain, yet he will be rewarded, he will not so much as thank me for his life, but forgets that his head was in my mouth, and how I suffered him to draw it out again without hurting, albeit he put me to exceeding much pain: I suppose it is I, which deserve the reward, and not the Crane.

Thus you may see the fassion of ungrateful men in these days, how they ever reward good with evil: for where pride is exalted, there Honour is ever laid in the dust. There be a wold which ought to reward, and do good to those that have advanced them, which now complain, and make those advancements injuries, but the guarden will follow: for it is the wilest counsel, That whosoever will go about to chastise another, shold ever be sure of hys own clearness. All this, and a wold moze than I can well remember, was curiously wrought on this Glass: for the Work-master thereof was the cunningest and profundest Clark in all Sciences that ever breamed. And because the Jewels were too good and precious for me to keep, therefore I sent them to the King and Queens Majestie: as a present, to witness my faith and service: D^r he that had seen what sorrow my Children made when I sent the Glass away, would have wondered; for by reason of the great virtue therein, they oft gazed in the same; both to behol^v themselves, and to see how their cloathing and apparel became them.

Little did I then imagine that good Kayward was to neer his death: for, than bar himself, and Bellin the Rym, I knew no messenger worthy to carry such a present. But I will search the whole wold, but I will find the murtherer; for murther cannot be hid. It may be, he is in this presence

of Reynard the FOX.

sence which knows what is become of Kayward, albeit he do conceal it; for many Devils walk like Saints. Yet the greatest wonder of all is (which troubled me most) that my Lord the King should say, that my Father, nor my self, ever did good. But the troubles of affairs may well breed forgetfulness in Kings, otherwise your Majestie might call to mind how when the King your Father lived, and you were a Prince not above two years old, my Father came from the School at Mountpelier, where he had studied five years the Art of Physick, and was expert in all the Principles thereof, and so famous in those days, that he wore cloaths of silk, and a Golden Girdle. Now when he was come to the Court, he found the King in great extremity of sickness, (which was no little grief unto him, for he loved the King most dearly) and the King rejoiced at his sight, and wold not suffer him to be out of his presence. All others might walk whither they wold, only he must ever be near him. Then said your Father, Reynard, I am exceeding sick, and I feel my sicknes increasing. My father answered, By Lord here is a Urinal, make water therein, and as soon as I behold your state, I will give mine opinion. The King did as he was advised (for he trusted not any equal with him.) Then said my Father, My best Lord, if you will be eased of your grief, you must needs eat the Liquor of a Wolf of seven years old, or else your disease is incurable.

The Wolf at that time stood by your Father, but said nothing: whereupon the King said, Sir Isegrim, you hear how there is nothing which can cure me but your Liquor. The Wolf replied, Not so my Lord, for I am not yet full five years old. It is no matter (answered my Father) let him be opened, and when I see the Liquor, I will tell you if it be medicinable. Then was the Wolf carried to the Kitchin, and his Liquor taken out, which the King did eat, and was presently cured of his sicknes, Then the King thanked my Father, and commanded all his Subjects on pain of death, from thenceforth to call him Master Reynard. So he abode still about the King, walking by his side, and was trusted in all things, and the King gave him (for an honour) a Garland of Roses, whch he must ever wear

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wear upon his head. But these remembraunces are all lost and gone, and his enemies are now only advanced; virtue is put back; and innocence lives in sorrow: for when baseness and covetousnes are made commanders, they neither know themselves, nor look at the lowness from whence they are risen. They have no hearts for pity, nor ears for the poore man's cause. Gold is the Gole they run to, and gifts the God which they worship. What great man's Gut doth not look upon Covetousnes? where is not battery entertained? and what Prince takes hate at his own prises? But shold greatness need their honest service, well night they starke ere they could gain that employmet: for like Wolves, they had rather see their Masters die, than lend them the least part of their Liquor.

This, my Lord, was an accident which fell in your iouth, and you may well forget it: Yet (without boasting) I my self may say, I have done to you both Honour and service, and you haply also forgot this which I shall repeat, whiche I vow I do not to upbraid your Majestie, for you are ever worthy of more than I can render, and my uttermost is but the rent of a loyal Subject, which I am ever bound by the Laws of God and Nature to perform.

So it was, that on a time Isgrim the Wolf and Ihd gotten a Swine under us, and by reason of his extream louyd crying, we were compelled to bite him to death. At which time your self came out of a Grobe unto us, and saluted us friendly, saying, That you and the Queen your Wise which came after you, were both exceeding hungry and intreated us to give you part of our getting: Isgrim then whistpered in such manner, that none could understand him: but I spake out aloud, With all my heart my Lord, and were it better than it is, it were too mean for your service. But Isgrim according to his wont departed grumbling, and took half of the Swine, giveng you and the Queen but one poore quarter, the other he himself unmannerly devoured, and left me for my share but poore halfe of the Lungs. When your Majestie had eaten your part, you were still hungry, but the Wolf would deliver none: so that you reacht him a blow with your foot, which toze all the skin from about his ears,

so

of Reynard the F O X.

so that he ran away crying and howling with extremity. But your Majestie commanded him to return again speedily, and bring you more meat, but he went away grumbling. Then I besought your Majestie, that I might go with him: and I well remember your answer. So away we went together, his ears dropping blood all the way as he went: in the end, we took a Calf, and when your Majestie saw us bring it, you laughed and said to me, I was a swifte Huntsman, and could find my game quickly, and therefore I was fit to serve in time of necessity; Then you bade me to divide it, and I did it, and gave one halfe thereof to your Majestie: the other halfe to the Queen: As for the Puggets, Liver, Lungs and all the inwards, I sent them to the young Princes your Children: As for the Head, I gave it to Ilegrim the Wolf, and took unto my self but the Feet only. Then said your Majestie, Ah Reynard, who taught you to make these courteous divisions? My Lord (answered I) that did this Priest which sits here with his bloody pate; for he lost his skin for his too much inequality, and for his covetousnes hath reap'd nothing but shame and dishonour. But it matters not, for there be many Wolves in these days, that would even eat up their best friends and kindred: Nay, if they had power, even your Majestie also; for they make no respect either of friend or enemy. But wo to that Common wealth where such have the upper hand and goverment.

My gracious Lord, this and many such like actions as this have I done for your Majestie, which were it not for tediousnes sake, I could well repeat. But they are all now cast out of your remembrance, but time and my loyalty I hope will one day again recall them. I have seen the day when no matter was finished in the Court without my advice and censure: though now that Judgement is not so reputed, yet it may be the same reputation may spring up again, and be believed as firmly as before, as long as it swerves not from Justice, which is the only thing I aim at. For if any one can charge me otherwise; and prove it by witness, here I stand to indure the uttermost the Law can inflict upon me: But if malice only slander me without witness, I crave the Combat according to the Law, and instance

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instance of the Court. Then said the King, Reynard, you say well: nor know I any thing more of Kaywards death, than the bringing of his head unto me by Bellin the Ram; thereforee of it I here acquit you. My dear Lord (said the Fox) I humbly thank you: yet is his death so grieuous unto me, I cannot let it passe so easie: I remember, my heart was heavy at his departure, and I was ready to sink to the ground, which was a certain prelge of the losse whic I happened.

These words, and the sad looks of the Fox so amazed all the beholders, that they could not chuse but believe all that he uttered, so that every one bemoan'd his losse, and pitied his sorrow. But the King and Queen were most touched with the same, and then intreated him that he would make diligent search for the finding them out, for his prais had stricken them far in love with the Jewels. And because he told them, he had sent those Jewels unto them (though they never saw them) yet they gave him as great thanks, as if they had been in their safe possession, and I desired him he would be a means they might be restored to them again.

C H A P.

of Reynard the F O X.

C H A P. XXII.

How Reynard made his peace with the King, and how Isegrim the Wolf complained of him again.

THE Fox understood their meaning exceeding well, and though he little meant to perform what they intreated,



yet he thanked the King and Queen for the comforts they
D
gave

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gave him in his great extremity, vowing not to rest either night or day, but to search all the corners of the Earth till he had found what was become of those Jewels: also intreating his Majestie, that if they shoule be concealed in such places where he might be withstood by force, so as neither his prayers nor power might attain unto them, that then his Highnesse would assit him: both because it was an occasion which concerned him nearly, as also a thing required from his office, being an act of perfect Justice, to punishe those, and murther both, which were concerned in his action.

Then the King answered him, that so soon as it shoule be known where they were, no help or assistance shoule be wanting. The Fox gave the King humble thanks, for now he had gotten all his purposes to the wished end he expected, and by his false tale and flattery, had so fas ned the King unto him, that now he might go freely whi her he pleased, and none shoule dare to complain upon him: onely Isegrim the Wolf stood all this while infinitely displeased, and not avise to constrain his anger any longer he said, O my Lord the King! is it possible your Majestie shoule be so childish or weak of belief, as to fix your trust on the falsehood of this ever deceiving Merchant, which hath nothing but Shadows and Chymera's wherewith to inhabant you? Be not so easily seduced, he is a wretch al co vered and besmeared with murther and treason, and even to your own face hath made a scoff of your Majestie. For my own part I am glad he is here in your presence, and I intend to ring him such a Peal of contrary nature, that all the lies he can invent, shall not bear him away with safety.

So it is (my dread Lord that this dissembling and false Traitor, not long since did betray my wife most shamefully; for it happened on a Winter's day, that they two travelled together through a very great water, and he persuaded my wife that he would teach her a singular Art how to catch fish with her tail, by letting it hang Angle-wise in the water a good while: whereunto he said, there would so much fish instantly cleave, that half a dozen

of Reynard the FOX.

dozen of them shoule not be able to devour it. The silly fool my wife (supposing all to be truth which came from him) went presently into the mire up to the belly before



He came to the water; and comming into the depth of the water (as he directed her) he held her tail down still in the water, expecting when the fish shoule cleave thereto: but the weather being harp and frosty, he stood there so long, that her tail was frozen hard to the Ice, so that

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all the force she had, was not able to pull it out: but when this lustful villain beheld that, he presently leapt upon her and ravish'd her, in such beastly and shameful manner, that no modest ear is able to hear the odiousness of the action. My poor Wife being disarmed of all resistance, well might she shriek, cry, and feed upon the brine of her own tears, but all to no purpose; the deed was done, and the villain triumphed. This no Impudence can make him deny, for I came and took him in the act: How much! jealousie, grief and fury assail'd me at that instant, I was even distracted to behold them: and cryed, Reynard, villain, what art thou doing? but he seeing me so near approaching, presently leapt from her, and ran his way: so I went unto her with much sorrow and heaviness, having a world of labour ere I could break the Ice about her; and in despight of all my cunning, yet he was compell'd to leave a piece of her tail behind her: and indeed, we both escaped hardly with our lives. For by reason of the great anguish he induced, she barked so loud, the people of the next Village rose up, and came with Staves and Bills, with Flails and Pitch-forks, and the Wives with their Distaves; and so fiercely assaulted us, crying kill, kill, and slay, slay, that I never was in so desperate a taking. One slave amongst the rest, which was strong, and swift of foot, hurt us sore with a Pike-staff; and had not the night befriended us, we had never escaped that danger. From hence we came into a field full of Brooms and Brambles, where we hid us from the fury of our enemies. Thus my Gracious Lord, you have heard how this Traitor and Murtherer hath used us, and against the same we crave the right of your Law and Justice.

But Reynard answered, and said, If this were true, I confess it would touch me near in Honour and Reputation: but God forbid that such a slander should be prob'd against me: I confess, I taught her to catch fish, and taught her how to enter the water, and never touch the mire: but her greedines so transported her, when she heard me name the fish, that she ran without respect of any path or direction;

of Reynard the Fox.

and so coming into the Ice, she was there presently frozen, The Moral. By the com-
mon reason of her too long tarrying, for she had more fish than of the
man would have satisfied twenty reasonable appetites: but Wolf is shew-
is commonly seen, that who all would have, all foze- ed, the end
for covetousnes seldom bringeth any thing well home: that we ill
when I saw her so fastned in the Ice, I used all my best man bear a-
endeavours to loosen her, and so indeed was heaving and how loath
sowing about her, but to little purpose; for by reason of they are that
or weight I was not able to move her.

Now whilst this was in doing, came Isegrim, and seeing
one so busie about her, Churl-like he most vilely slander-
ed me, like a profuse Mittal, which takes delight to be
accounted a Cuckold: but believe it, my gracious Lord, to gain re-
vengement, all was false, and his Wife virtuous, for any thing with-
in my knowledge; whence I am perswaded, that surely
his eyes dazelled; for indeed, he uttered many a grievous
curse, and threatened much revengement against me; so
that more to eschew his blasphemy than fury, I went my
way; and he came, and with as great ado, as much heave
and shoke he helpe her out; which done (than they almost
shak'd with cold) ran and skipt up and down the fields to
get them heat; and that this is all truth which I have spo-
ken, I will willingly be depos'd; for I would not be the up against the
father of any falsehood before your Majestie, to be Master Wolf and his
wife, is shew-
of many millions: however my fortunes go, I respect ed that one
not, Truth is my badge, and hath ever been the Ensign of
mischief fel-
all my Ancestors: and if there be any scruple or doubt dom cometh
made of mine assertion, I ask but eight daps liberty, that to all folks.
I may confer with my Learned Council, and I will so but another
approve all my words, by Oath and Testimony of good stills follow it
and sufficient witness, that your Majestie, and your Ho- By the Fox's
nourable Council shall accord to the justnes of my pro- excuse, is
testation. As for the Wolf, what have I to do with him? skewed how
It is well known already, that he is a debaucht and almost policy hath e-
notorious villain; false both to Heaven and your Majestie; or a cloak for
and now his own words witness him a base slanderer of any evil it
Women: therefore I refer my self to the tryal of his Wife: doth, and can
if she accuse me, let the world hold me guilty; provided colour every
he may be made free from her husband, whose ty- pre-
ranny

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so incis. The tyranny will compel her to say any thing, though never
Fox's court so unjustly.

At this, sooth slept Dame Arsewind the Wolfs-Wife, and
that strength said, Reynard, thou hast so oþly a smooth tongue, and
þor policy con so dñe in horrey, that no man is safe from thine inchan-
tis in diff'rent wens: it is not once but oft thou hast deceived me remem-
bering the wens, þer but how thou didst use me at the Well with þe Bucket;
& calling þim which hanging at one cord, and running through one hole
good name in ley, which ever as one went down, the other went up, I
question, by remember how thou getting into one of them, fildst down
which means to the bottom of the Well, and there sathest in great danger
he may lose his life and peril, so that I ran thither with great haste, and heard
the Wolf say, can't there? thou answer'dst me that thou werst here a fish-
ing into the ing; and hadst so much fish, of which thou hadst eaten so me-
Well, shews ny, that thy belly was ready to break with sweling: then
covetousness, I asked how I might come to thee; and thou said st, Aunt,
which never leap into that Bucket which hagetteth there, and thou will



be

of Reynard the Fox.

presently with me: which I no sooner did, but being brings any
such heabier than thy self) I fell presently to the bottom thing home
but less and the Well, and thou camest up to the top: at which, dager & and
when I seemed to be angry, thou saidst, Aunt, this is that policy
þut the fashion of the World: ever as one comes up, and care not who
þer must go down; and so said, you leapt out of the pines, to be
sucker, and ran your way, leaving me there all alone, as appears by
þere I remained a whole day, pined with hunger, and the Fox's
warred with cold; and ere I could get out from thence, tempting her
receiving so many blows, that my life was never in greater into the Bee-
danger. The Fox replied, Aunt, though the strokes were ket. By their
aualent unto you, yet I had rather you should have them entring into
than my self, for you are stronger, and better able to bear the the A. &
Cave is shea- hem; and at that time of necessity one of us could not ed. the differ-
scape them: besides Aunt, I taught you wisdom and ex- ence betwixt
perience, that you should not trust either friend or foe, temperance &
ruthless, and when the matter he perswades to, is the avoiding of his how far good
own peril: for nature teacheth us to love our own Welfare, words will
and he which doth otherwise, is crowned with nothing but prevail before
rule and chur- lish behavi- our.

Then said Dame Arsewind to the King: I beseech your
Majesty, mark how this dissembler can blow with all
winds, and paint his mischief with false colours: a
world of times hath he brought me into these bazardz.
Once he betrai'd me to my Aunt the She-Ape, where ere
I escaped, I was fain to leave one of my ears behind me:
if the Fox dare tell the truth of the story (for I know his
memor to be much better: besides, he is apt to catch
advantage from the weakness of Language) I desire no
better evidence against him. Then said the Fox, Will-
ingly I will do it, and without flattery or falsehood, and
wherefore I beseech your Majestie to lend me your Royal
Patience.

Upon a certain time the Wolf here came to me into
the Wood, and complained unto me, that he was exceed-
ing hungry, (yet never saw him fuller in my life) but
he would ever dissemble: at which, presently I took pity
of him, and said, I was also as hungry as he: so away
we went and travelled half a day together without find-
ing

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ing any thing; then began he to whine and cry, and said he was able to go no further. Then hard by the foot of an Yathorn tree, he espied a hole all covered over with Brambles, and hear a great rushing therein, but could not imagine the cause why: then I desired the Wolf go in, and look if any thing were there to profit us, (so something I knew there was) then said he Cousin, would not creep into the hole for a hundred pounds till I know certainly what is therein, for there may be danger but if you please to attempt it, who I know hath both Art and Wit to save your self, I will stay here under this Tree till you return; but I beseech you make haste and let me know what is therein, as soon as you perceive it.

Behold my dread Lord the King, thus he made me poor silly Beast, to go before into the hazard, and he who is great, strong and mighty, did abide without wherein I exprest no little friendship, for I wot not endure the like danger for a Kingdom: but to proceed, I entered into the hole, and found the way dark, long, and tedious: in the end I espied a great light, which came in on the other side of the hole, by which, I saw there lying a great She-Ape, with eyes glimmering and sparkling with fire, her mouth set round with long sharp teeth, and on her hands, nayles sharp as an Elfin, or Bodkin, I imagined her at first a Garmazin, or Baboon, or else a Peacock, for a more dreadful Beast I never beheld in all my life time, and by her side lay divers of her Children, which like her self were cruel and stern of countenance: when they saw me come towards them, they clapped wide with their mouths upon me, so that I graelo amazed, and wist my self far from their harbour. But resoluing well as I could, I looked more constantly upon her, and methought she appeared bigger than Hesgrim the Wolf, and fouler company I never saw: they were all laid in foul litter, rotten and dirty with their own piss, they were all daubed and clogged with their own dung, which stunk

of Reynard the Fox.

so filthily, that I was almost perfored with the smell. For my own part, I durst not but speak them fair, and therfore I said, Aunt, God give you many good days, and bless you and my Cousins, your pretty Children: questionless they are the fairest of their ages that ever I beheld; and so surpass in beauty and perfection, that they may well be accounted of most princely Issue. Truly Aunt, we are infinitely beholding to you that doth add this increase and glory to your family. For mine own part (dear Aunt) when I heard you were laid down and delivered, I could not say, but needs must come and visit you. Then replied he, Cousin Reynard, you are exceeding welcome: you have found me like a flut, but I thank you for your kind visitation: you are a worthy Gentleman, and (thorow the Kings Dominions) for your wit and judgement, held of singular reputation; you do much honour to our kindred, and are famous for the means you work to their preferment: I must intreat you to take the charge of my Children, and instruct them in the rules of knowledge and science, that they may know hereafter how to live in the World. I have thought of you ever since they were born, and resolved upon this, Cousin, because I knew your perfection, and that you accompanied your self with the good and virtuous.

How glad was I when I heard those words to proceed from her: which kindness was only because at first I called her Aunt, who indeed was no foul kin unto me: for my true Aunt indeed is only Dame Rukenaw, which standeth yonder: who indeed is mother of excellent Children. Yet notwithstanding I answered this foul Monster: Aunt, my life and goods are both at your Service, and what I can do for you night or day, shall ever be at your Commandment, and your Childrens. Yet I most heartily wist my self far from them at that instant, for I was almost possoned with their stink. And I pitied Hesgrim, who was sore grieved with hunger all this while: and offering to take my leave, feigning that my wife would think it long till my return, She said, Dear Cousin, you shall not depart till you have eaten something, I shall take it kindly

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kindly if you offer it: then rose she up: and carried me into an inner Room, where was great store of all kind of Venison: both the Red Deer, Fallow-Deer, and Does, and great store of Partridge, Pheasant, and other Fowls, that I amazed much from whence such store of meat should come. Now when I had eaten sufficiently, she gave me a side, and half a haunch of an Hind to carry home to my wife, which I was ashamed to take, but that she compelled me: and so taking my leave; and being intreated often to visit her, I did depart from thence, much joyed that I had sped so well.

Now being come out of the Causey, I spied whereas Isegrim lay groaning pitifully; and I asked him how he fared? He said wondrous ill, and so extremely ill, that (dear Deppew) without some meat, I die presently: then did I take compassion on him, and gave him my wifes token, which preserved his life; and for which then he gaue me a world of thanks, though now he hate me extremely. But as soon as he had devoured up my Venison, he said, Reynard, my Dear Cousin, what found you in the hole? believez if I am now more hungry than I was before; and this small morsel hath but harpted my teeth to eat more. Then said I to him, Uncle, get you into the hole, and you shall find store of Witches, for there lieth my Aunt with her Childzen: if you can flatter and speak her fair, you need fear no hard measure, all things will be as you would wish it.

I think (my gracious Lord) this was warning sufficient, and that which might have armed any wise spirit; but rude and barbarous Beasts will never understand wisdom. And therefore they loath the policies they know not. But yet he promised to follow my counsel: so forth he went into that foul stinking hole, and found the Ape in that filthy sort as before I described, which when he saw (being affrighted) he cried out, Wo and alas, I think I am come into hell: did ever creature see such fearful goblins? drown them, for shame drown them, they are so ugly, they are able to scare the Devil: why, they make me hair stand an end with their horrid deformity. Then (said he)

Sir

of Reynard the F O X.

Sir Isegrim, Heir Creation is not my fault let it suffice they are my Children, and I am their Mother. Nor ought their beauty or hard favour to displease you: here was a kinsman of theirs too day, and is but newly departed, who is well known to exceed you both in birth, virtue and wisdom, and he accounted them fair and lovely; for your opinion I care not: therefore you may depart at your pleasure. Then he replied, Dame, I would have you know, that I would eat of your meat, it is much better bestowed on me, than on those ugly Archins. But she told him, she had no meat: Pea (said he) here is meat enough; and with that, offering to reach at the meat, my Aunt started up with her Children, and ran at him with their sharp nails, and so clawed him, that the blood ran about his ears, and I heard him cry and howl so extremely, that it appeared he had no defence but to run out of the hole as fast as he could. For indeed, he came out both extremely beaten, and extremely bitten, and all his skin slapt like a Spanish Jerkin: and one ear left behind, as a pawn of his manners.

This when I saw, I asked him if he had flattered sufficiently; and he said, he had spoken as he found; for the Dame was a foul Witch, and the Litter most ugly Monsters. Then I told him, how he should have commended their beauties, and took them for the best of his alliance. And he replied, he had rather have seen them all hang'd. Then (quoth I) you must always receive such reward as now you do, but wisdom would do otherwise; a lie sometimes as much availeth, as a true tale: and fair words never come out of season; and better than we, hold it for a rule worthy of Imitation.

Thus my Lord, I have told you truly how he came by his red Night-cap, which I know he cannot, nor dare to deny, for all is true, without any addition.

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CHAP. XXIII.

How Isegrim proffer'd his Glove to Reynard to fight with him, which Reynard accepted : and how Rakenar advised the Fox to carry himself in the Fight.

THIS Wolf answered the Fox, I may well forbear false Villain, as thou art) thy mocks and scorns, but thine injuries I will not. You say, I was almost dead for hunger, when you helpt me in my need: but thou liest falsely therein, for it was nothing but a bare bone thou gavest me, when thou hadst gnawed all the meat thereof and therefore know, in this thou injurest my reputation; again, thou accusest me of Treason against the King, and to conspire his Majesties death, for certain Treasure thou hast is in Husterloe: also thou hast abused and slandered my wife, which will ever be an infamy to her name, if it be not revenged: these things considered, I have forborn you long, therefore now look not to escape, wherefore seeing there is no other testimony but our own Consciences: before you my Lord the King, and the rest of my noble Lords, friends and alliances, here I will affirm and approve to the last drop of my Blood, that thou Reynard the Fox, art a false Traitor and a Murtherer, and this I will approve and make good upon thy body within the Lists of the field, body against body, by which means our strife shall have an end; and in witness whereof, I cast thee here my Glove, which I dare thee to take up, that I may have right for my injuries, or else dye like a recreant.

Reynard was something perplexed when he saw this, for he knew himself much too weak for the Wolf, and feared to come by the worst: but straight rememb'ring the c'dvantage he had, by reason the Wolfs fore-claws were pulled away, and that they were not yet fully cured, Whatsoever he be that saith I am a Traitor or a Murtherer, I say, he lieth in his Throat, especially Isegrim above all others: poor fool, thou bringest me to the place I desire, and to the purpose I wish for, in sign whereof I take up the gage, and

of Reynard the Fox.



and throw down mine, to prove all thy words lies and falsehoods.

This said, the King received their pledges, and admitted the Battle, commanding them to put in their surety, that the next morrow they should try the Combat: then slept forth the Bear, and the Cat, and were sureties for the Wolf: and for the Fox were sureties Grimbold the Bock, and Betclaz. When all Ceremonies were finished, the she-Ape took Reynard aside, and said, Neophew, I beseech you

take

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The Moral. take care of your self in this Battel, be bold and wise, your Uncle taught me once a Prayer of singular vertue for him the combat of which was to fight: and he learned it of that excellent the Fox, is Scholar and Clark, the Abbot of Bude'o. and he that faith shewed the this Prayer with a good devotion fasting, shall never be madnes of overcome in Combat: and therefore my best Pephew be rage and fury, and how reg- not afraid, for to morroto I will read it over to you, and ligent it is in the Wolf shall never prevail against you. The Fox gave respecting her many thanks for her favours, and told her his quarrel own hazard: was good and honest, and therefore he had no doubt of his fit it may do mischief to happy success: so all that night he tarried with his kins- the adversary. folks about him, who drave away the time with pleasant The Fox's discourse. But Dame Rukenaw his Aunt still leat her sleeping of it, shews how when possey where- fore she caused all his hair to be shaved off even from his head to the tail, and then she anointed all his body quite thriling hole, over with oyl Olive, so that he made it so smoth and that then it slippery, that the Wolf could catch no hold of him: be- gows despe- sides he was round, fat, and plump of body, which much rate, and will out face any abaited

of Reynard the F O X.

abaited to his advantage: then he advised him that night thing, to the to drink exceeding much, that he might be more apt to pills uttermost danger. By the sime fitting, pills upon your bush tail, and strike it in the Wolfs face, and as near as you can into his eyes, by which means blinding his sight, he shall be little able to offend you: but at these special times keep your tail as close as can be between your legs, lest he catch hold thereon, and pull you to the ground: also look carefully to your self at the first, and by all means shun his blows, making him to tog and run after you, especially there where most durst is, and sqping it up with your feet, make it flic in his eyes, take your advantage, and smite and bite him where you may do him most mischief, ever and anon striking him on the face with your tail full of pills, and that will take from him both sight and understanding: besides, it will so tire and weary him, that his feet not being fully cured of their hurt, by the losse of his shoo's, which you caused to be pulled off, he will not be able to pursue you: for though he be great, yet his heart is little and weak. This (Pephew) is mine advice, and assure your self in these tales, Art prevaileth as much as courage; therefore regard your self well, that not only your self, but your whole family may gain honour and reputation from your fortune: as for the charm of Prayer which your Uncle Martin taught me, by whch you may be invincible, it is this which followeth. Then laying her hand upon his head, he said, Blaerd, Shay, Alphenio, Rasbue, Gorfons, Arsbunstro. Now Pephew, assure your self you are free from all mischiefe or danger whatsoever, therefore go to your rest, for it is near day, and some sleep will make the Body better disposed.

The Fox gave her infinite thanks, and told her he had bound him (to her) a servant for ever: and in those holy words he had spoken, he had placed his confidence unremovable; and so he laid him down to rest under a Tree in the grass, till it was Sun-rise: at what time the Otter came

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came unto him and awaked him, and gave him a fat young Duck to eat, saying, Dear Cousin I have toiled all this night to get this present for you, which I took from a Fowler, here take and eat it, and it shall give you vigour and courage. The Fox gave him many thanks, and said, it was fortunate han sel, and if he survived that day, he



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should

of Reynard the F O X.

ould find he would require it: so the Fox eat the Duck without bread or sawce, more than his hunger, and to it he drank four great draughts of water, and then he went to the place appointed, where the liss stood, with all his kindred attending on him.

When the King beheld Reynard thus shorn and opled, he said to him: Well Fox, I see you are careful of your own



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safetys:

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safety: you respect not booty, so you escape danger. The Fox answered not a word, but bowing himself down humbly to the Earth, both before the King and the Queen his Majesties, went forth into the Field, and at the same time the Wolf was also ready, and stood boasting, and giving out many proud and vain-glazibis speeches. The Merchants and Rulers of the Lists, were the Libbard, and the Lions. These brought forth a Book, on which the Wolf swore, and maintained his assertion, That the Fox was a Traitor, and a murderer, which he would prove on his body, or else be counted a Recreant. Then Reynard took the Book, and swore, he lied as a false Traitor and a Thief, which he would prove on his body, or be accounted a Recreant.

When these Ceremonies were done, the Marshals of the Field had them to their devoir. And then every creature avoided the Lists, save Dame Rukenaw, who stood by the Fox, and bade him remember the words and instructions he had given him, and call to mind, how when he was scarce seven years old, he had then wisdom enough to pass the darkest night without Lanthorn or Candle-light, or the help of the Moon, when any occasion required him: and that his experience was much greater, and his reputation of wisdom more frequent with his companions: ind therefore to work so as he might win the day, which would be an eternal Monument to him and his family for ever. To this the Fox answered (my best Aunt) assure your self I will do my best, and not forget a tittle of your Council; I doubt not but my friends shall reap honour, and my foes shame by my actions: to this the Ape said, Amen; and so departed.

CHAP:

of Reynard the FOX.

CHAP. XIV.

Of the Combat betwixt the Fox and the Wolf; the Event, Passages, and Victory.



W^Hen none but the Combatants were in the Lists, the Wolf went toward the Fox with infinite rage and fury, and thinking to take the Fox in his fore-feet, the Fox leapt nimbly from him, and the Wolf pursued him; so that there began a tedious chase between them, on which their friends gazed. The Wolf taking larger strides than the Fox, often overtook him; and lifting up his feet to strike him, the Fox avoided the blow, and smote him on the face with his tail, which was all so wet, that the Wolf was stricken almost blind, the piss impeded so extreame. And he was forced to rest while he cleared his eyes: which advantage when Reynard saw, he scratched up the dust with his feet, and threw it in the eyes of the Wolf. This

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This grieved him worse than the former; so that he durst follow him no longer, for the dust and sand sticking in his eyes, smarted so sore, that of force he must rub and wash it away; which Reynard seeing, with all the fury he had, he ran upon him, and with his teeth gave him thre sore wounds on his head, and scoffing said, have I hit you Mr. Wolf? I will yet hit you better: you have killed many a Lamb, and many an innocent Beast, and would impose the fault upon me, but you shall find the price of your knavery, I am markt to punish thy sins, and I will give thee thy absolution bravely. It is good thou use patience, for Hell is Purgatory, and thy life is at my mercy: Yet notwithstanding, if thou wilt kneel down, and ask me forgiveness, and confess thy self banquished, though thou beest the worst thing living, yet I will spare thy life, for my pity makes me loath to kill thee. These words made Ieg iiii both mad and desperate, so that he knew not how to expell his fury: his wounds bled, his eyes smarted, and his whole body was oppressed. So that in the height of his fury he lift up his foot, and struck the Fox so great a blow, that he fell'd him to the ground. But Reynard being nimble, quickly rose up again, and encouerted the Wolf, that between them began a dreadfull and doubtful Combat. The Wolf was exceeding furious, and ten times he leaped to catch Reynard fast, but his skin was so slippery and oyley, he could not hold him. Nay, so wonderous nimble was he in the fight, that when the Wolf thought to have him surest, he would shif himself between his leggs, and under his belly, and every time gave the Wolf a bite with his teeth, or a swop on the face with his tail, that the poore Wolf found nothing but despair in the conflic, albeit his strength was much the greater.

Thus many wounds and biteings passed on either side; the one expressing cunning, and the other strength; the one fury, the other temperance. In the end, the Wolf being enraged that the battle had continued so long (for had his feet been sound, it had been much shorster) he said to himself, I will make an end of this Combat; for I know my very weight is able to crush him to pieces, and I

of Reynard the F O X.

much of my reputation to suffer him thus long to stand against me. And this said, he struck the Fox



again so sore a blow on the head with his foot, that he fell down to the ground, and ere he could recover himself, and arise

of Reynard the F O X.

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The Moral. By the Wolf's artise, he caught him in his feet, and threw him under him lying upon him in such wise, as if he would have prest him to death.

Now began the Fox to be grievously afraid, and all his watching friends began to shout for joy: but the Fox defended himself (as well as he could) with his claws, lying along; but the Wolf could not hurt him with his claws, his fist being shewed so loose; only with his teeth he snatched at him to bite him; which when the Fox saw, he smote the Wolf on his head with his fore-claws, so that he tore the skin between his brows, and his ears, and one of his eyes hung out of his head, which put the Wolf to infinite torment, and he howled out extremly; then Segrim wiping his face, the Fox bringing any advantage thereof, and with his fangings got upon his fanglings, At which the Wolf was angry, and striking after him caught the Fox in his arms, and held him fast: never before Reynard in so great a strait as then, for that time was their contention: but anger now made the Wolf forget his smart: and griping the Fox altogether under him, as Reynard was defending himself, his hand light into the grim's mouth, so that he was in danger to lose it. Then said the Wolf to the Fox, now either yeild thy self as I quished, or else certainly I will kill thee; neither thy pisses, thy mocks, nor any subtil invention shall have thee; thou art now left utterly desperate, and thy wounds must have their satisfaction. When the Fox heard this, he thought it was a hard Election; for both shewed, that his ruin; and suddenly concluding, he said, Dear Uncle, since fortune commands me, I yield to be your Servant at your Commandment I will travel for you to the Holy Land, or any other Pilgrimage, or do any service whatsover I can, to you: Besides, whatsoever I get of Pheasants, Geese, Partridges, or Plover, flesh or fish, you, your wife and children, shall have the first choice ere any come to my belly;

extorting the father: I will do for the King or for our Holy Father Pope: I will hold of you my Lands and Tenures; as I, so shall the rest of my kindred: so that you shall be Lord of many Lords, and none shall dare to move against you: Besides, whatsoever I get of Pheasants, Geese, Partridges, or Plover, flesh or fish, you, your wife and children, shall have the first choice ere any come to my belly;

ever stand by your side, and wheresoever you go, no danger shall come near you: you are strong, and I am sub- flattery of the Wolf, we two joyned together, what force can prevail against the Wolf? Again, we are so near in blood, that nature forbids shews, That we should be any enmity between us: I would not have you fight against you, had I been sure of victory, but that you appealed, and then you know of necessity I must do uttermost; I have also in this battle been courteous to you, and not shewed my worst violence, as I would on a occasion, either to gain his own liberty; and that the words do ever either vanquish, or astonish. Lastly, by the weak Foxes conq'ring the strong in their sleep shut two windows, you shall shut but one. As Wolf, is shewed, ed, that in all my wife, children, and lineage, they shall fall down at my feet, before you in my presence: therefore I humbly de- sire you, that you will suffer poor Reynard to live, I know you will kill me, but what will that avail you, when you shall never be in safety for fear of revengement of my kindred? Therefore, to much temperance in any mans wrath is excellent, whereas as wisdom, discretion, and temperance, and good fame, than blood and revenge. rate, and war.

Segrim the Wolf said, Infinite dissembler, how fain wouldest thou be freed of my servitude? Too well I understand thee, and know that if thou wert safe on thy feet, thou wouldest forswear this submissiōn: but know, all the wealth in the world shall not buy out thy ransom; for thee and thy friends esteem them not, nor believe any thing thou hast uttered: too well I know thee, and am no bird for thy Lime-bush, that cannot deceive me: How wouldest thou triumph, if I should believe thee, and say, I wanted wit to understand thee; bat thou shalt know, I can look both on this side, and beyond thee; by many deceits used upon me, have now turned me against thee. Thou saist, thou hast spared me in the

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the battle: but look upon me, and my wounds will shew
falsly thou liest, thou never gab'st me a time to breathe in:
will I now give thee a minute to repent in; and the rather
when I think of the dishonour thou didst to my bēd, and
inhumanly thou didst ravish my dear wife Dame Arlewind.

Now, whilst Ilsegrim was thus talking, the Fox betwixt
himself how he might best get free; and thrusting his own
hand down between his legs, he caught the Wolf fast by
stones, and he wrung him so extreamly and hard therby
that he made him shriek and howl out with the anguish: the
Fox drew his other hand out of his mouth; for the
Wolf was in such wondrous torment, that he had much
to contain himself from swounding: for his torment exceed
ed far the paine of his eye, and in the end he fell over and over
in a swound: then presently Reynard leapt upon, and by
him about the Lists, and drag'd him by the Legs, and struck
wounded, and bit him in many places, so that all the who
field might take notice thereof.

At this all Ilsegrim's friends were full of sorrow, and did
great weeping and lamenting went to the King, and pray
him to be pleased to appease the Combat, and take it in
his own hands: which suit the King granted, and then the
Lybard and the Losse (being Marshals) entered the Lists,
and told the Fox and the Wolf that the King would spea
with them, and that the battle shoulde there end, for
it would take it into his own hands, and determine therest:
for themselves, they had done sufficiently, neither would the
King lose either of them: and to the Fox they said, the
whole field gave him the victory.

The Fox said, I humbly thank them, and what please
my Lord the King to command, I am ready to obey; for my
ambition is no further than to be victor: Therefore I beseech
you let my friends come to attend me, that I may
proceed by their advice. They answered, it was reason
so presently came forth Dame Slopard, and Grimbard her hus
band, Dame Rukewaw with her two Sisters, Belas and Fe
rump her two Sons, and Malice her Daughter, the Field
Moure, the Weasel, and above an hundred which wouldng
had come if the Fox had lost the conquest: for to him the

of Reynard the FOX.

had honour, will ever flock attendants; but to him
that is in losse, will nothing but contempt follow. Alas, to
the Fox came the Beaver, the Otter, and both their wives
Pauntecrote, and Ordigale, and the Oistrole, the Martin, and the
Fitchews, the Ferrit, the Squirril, and a world more than I can
name, and all because he was the victor: nay, divers which
before had complained of him, were now of nearest kinred;
and ready to do him all service. This is the fashion of the
world, he that is rich and in favour, can never be poore
or hungry for friendship, every one will seem to love him,
every one will imitate his falsehoods.



Then was a solemn feast held, Trumpets were
sounded, Cornets winding Shawms, and all instruments
warbled, and ebery one cried, Praised be Heaven for this
glorious conquest. Reynard thanked them all kindly, and re
ceived them with great joy and gladnes: Then asked their
opinions, whether he shoulde yield the victory to the King or
no?

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so: and Dame Slopard said, yea by all means Cousin, for it stands with your Honour, nor may you deny it. And so the Marshals going before, they went all to the King, the Fox on every side, all the Trumpets, Pipes and Minstrels sounding before him.



When Reynard came before the King, he fell on his knees, and the King made him stand up, and said to him, Reynard,

of Reynard the FOX.

nerd, you may well receipe, for you have won much Honour this day; therefore here I discharge you, and set you free, to go whither your own will leads you; for all contestations I take upon my self, and will have it discuss by the wisest of the Kingdom, as soon as Legrim's wounds shall be cured, at what time I will send for you, and so proceed to Judgment.

My worthy dread Lord (said the Fox) I am well appaid with any thing that shall please you: yet when I came first to your Highness Court, there were many malicious persons which sought my Life (whom I never injured) but they thought to overcome me, by joyning with mine enemies against me, and thinking the Wolf had greater favour than I with your Majesty: this was the ground of their indignation, wherein they shewed their simplicity, not to alter the end which followed.

These mea (my Lord) are like a great kennel of Hounds which once I saw standing at a Lords house on a dunghil, where they waited for such as shold bring them meat; anon they saw a Hound come out of the Kitchen, which had thence brought a goodly rib of Beef: but the Cook pursuing him, threw hot scalding water after him, an dscalded all his hinder parts: but notwithstanding, away he went with his booty; but when his fellowes perceived him, they called to him, and said, How much art thou bound to the good Cook which hath given thee that goodly bone so well furnished with flesh; but the Dog replied, you speak according to your knowledge; and praise me in such sort, as you see me before with the bone in my mouth; but if you please to look upon me behinde on my Buttocks, you shall find how dearly I paid for it; and they beholding how he was scalded, and all the hair and skin slayed from his hinder loins, they began to be agast and amazed at his torment; neither would they have any more of his fellowship, but fled and ran away from him. In the same sort (my Lord) these false and unworthy Beasts, when they are made Lords, possess their deires and are mighty and renowned, then do they exort, pill

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and poll the pooz and needy, and eat them up like so many hunger starved Hounds; for they are the Dogs with bones in their mouths, no man dare to meddle with them, but praise all their actions; no man dare to offend them; nay, many assist and help them in their unlawful actions, only that they may lick theiringers, and be partakers of their extortions.

D (my daer Lord) how can those men go safely, wh^t ich go thus blind-fold? D^r how can they expect but a shameful fall, whose steps are so uncertain? neither can any man pity them when their works are disclosed, but continual curses and upbraiding follow them to the grabe with destruction: many of these have lost their hair (which is their friends) as the Hounds did, and have none left to cover their mischiefs, but all forfayke them as the Hounds did th^r Dog which was scalded.

My Gracious Lord, I beseech you remember this moral example, and it will nothing impair the greatness of your virtue, for doubtless many of these evil extorting creatures are under your subjection, both in Towns, Cities, and great Lozds houses, who out-face the poor, and sell away their freedoms and priviledges, and threaten thing^s upon them which they never knew, thought or imagined, and all to make up the Common-wealths of their own particular profits: but the ends of such are vile, and Heave i hath for them a Judgement: but of these errors I hope noe shall justly accuse me, nor any of my kindred, but we shall acquit our selves nobly from the same. I fear no creatures accusations; for I will ever be the Fox, though all my foes swear to the contrary. My Lord, you I aboore above all mortal creatures living; nor can any wisdom divert me from you, but I will abide by you to the last gasp: and though Malice have told your Highness to the contrary, yet I have ever disprroved them, and so will do to the last moment.

CHAP.

of Reynard the F O X.

CHA P. XXV.

How the King forgave the Fox all things, and made him the greatest in his Land; and of his Noble return home with all his kindred.

T H^E King said, Reynard, you are one that owe me ha-
mge and fealty, and I hope I shall ever enjoy it; And



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for your service, here I make you one of the Lords of my Privy Council. Take heed you do not any thing unworthy: for here I place you in all your power and authority as formerly you were, hoping you will administer Justice equally and truly. For as long as you employ your wit unto virtuous actions, so long the Court cannot miss you: for you are a Star, whose lustre exceeds all other, especially in finding out mischiefs, and preventing them. Therefore remember the moral you your self told me, and be a lover of truth and equity. From henceforth I will be governed by your wisdom, and there shall not breathe that creature in my Kingdom which shall do you injury, but I will highly revenge it. This you shall proclaim through all the Nation, and be the chieffest Gouvernour in the same, for the Office of High Bayliff here I freely bestow upon you, and I know you may reap great honour thereby.

All Reynards friends and kindred humbly thanked the King; but he told them it was much short of that he intended to do for their sakes; and advised them all to admonish him to be careful of his faith and loyalty. Then said Dame Rukewal, Believe it my Lord, we will not fail in that point, neither fear you the contrary; for shou'd he prove otherwise, we would renounce him? Then the Fox also thanked the King with fair and courteous words, saying: My gracious Lord! I am not worthy of these high honours you do me, yet will ever study with my service how to deserve them: nor shall my best Counsel at any time be wanting. And this said, he took his humble leave of the King, and so departed with the rest of his friends and kindred.

Now whilst these passages hapned, Bruin the Bear, Tibert the Cat, and Arswind and her Childdren, with the rest of their Lineage, drew the Wolf out of the Field, and laid him upon soft Litter, and Hay, and covered him all over very warm, and dressed his wounds, which were to the number of five and twenty, by the help of many skilful Leeches and Surgeons. His sickness and weakness was so great, that his feeling was lost: but they rubbed and chased him

on

of Reynard the F O X.



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on the temples, and under the eyes, till he leapt out of his swound, and howled so loud, that all were amazed or good men which heard him: but the Physicians gave him Cordials to drink, and a dormiture or potion to make him sleep. And then comforted his wife, telling her there was no Hogs, which brought when one or

The Mæst.
By these be-
nours done to
the Fox by
the Lyon, is
shewed, that
seldom one
good fortune
cometh without
one, or other
thing so that
it is once ac-
hieved, fare
and venturis
to him wi-
th the World, for
and digni-
tatem directly
shall be re-
umed upon him
as on the op-
posite party, for
that is once
fallen either
in state or re-
putation, it is
a thing of
much diffi-
culty to see him
advanced
without mir-
acle; for
worldly men
are laid to be
like Dogs,
which when
one of their
own kind is
down, all the
rest will fall
upon him and
worry him.
But wise men
or good men
(for both are
scarce) are
said to be like
Hogs, which
bray when one or

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their kind is danger or peril of his life. So the Court brake up, and down, all the rest will presently assist every Beast return'd to his own home.

Amongst the rest, Reynard the Fox took his leave of the King and Queen, they desired him not to be long absent

For any thing else contained in this Chapter, it is either Morallized by the speeches of the Fox, or else by the Author.



from

of Reynard the FOX.

from them. To whom he answered, that he would be ever ready at their service, as was his bounden duty; and not himself alone, but all his friends and kinred also. And then begging licence of his Majesty in all solemn manner, and with fair speech, he departed the Court.

Was there any Creature flattered braver, or to better purpose? for he that could do the like, might be a Master of the Eight liberal Sciences: And no Lord whether Spiritual or Temporal, but would have an ear open for all his Language. Now died he without issue, for he hath Children almost in all places.

And indeed, he that hath no alliance to him in the Art of dissimulation, shall hardly prosper, as the World goeth: Though he want his hair, yet if he have his heart, it is enough to make him accepted.

Plain dealing is now an Exile: and Covetousness and fraud have taken possession of his Tenements; the Pope's Palace, the Courts of Emperors, Kings and Princes, cannot be exempted from this error.

Money is now grown the only Favourite of the time; the very Church-IDOL, and the Country-Worship: it can purchase all things, defend all things, and confound all things. And Mad-men Travel over the World, to gain this folly, this fashion. Who is not a true Fox, is but a beast of base estimation.

This is the World's custom; and what will become of the use, the wise man can hardly judg or imagine: Only that these hanious sins of falsehood, Theft, Murther, and Ambition, can never walk but hand in hand with Judgment. From which I heartily pray that the Hand of the Highest will defend us, and make us walk in those paths which shall be suitable to virtue and piety. With which I conclude, since these misdeeds are not fit shameles for me to treat of, since at the last day every one is sure to give an account for his own burthen.

With Reynard, all his friends and Kinsfolk, to the number of forty, took their leaves also of the King: and went away with the Fox, who was no little glad creature

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ture that he had sped well and stood so fair in the Kyngs fa-
vour, for now he had power enough to advance whan he
pleased and pull down any that envied his fortune.

After some travel the Fox and all his friends came to his



Borough or Castle of Melpardus, where every one (in noble
and courteous manner) took leave of the other, and Reynard
did

of Reynard the FOX.

did to every one of them great reverence, and thanked them
for the love and honour he had received of them; protesting
ever more to remain their faithful servant, and to serue them
in all things wherein his life or goods might be serviceable
unto them: and shook hands and departed.

The Fox went into Dame Ermelin his wife, who wel-
comed him with great tendernesse: and to her and her children
he related at large, all the wonders which had befallen him
at the Court: and mist no tittle or circumstance therein.
Then grew they proud that his fortune was so excellent:
and the Fox spent his days from thenceforth (with his wife
and children) in great joy and content.

Now whosoever shall relate unto you (of the Fox) more or
less than you have heard, I would not wish you to build any
faith upon his report: Only this which you have already
heard or read, you may believe at your best pleasure: Not-
withstanding if any refuse, he shall not be accounted an
Heretick, since he that only saw it, may best give credit un-
to it, and yet many in this world believe the things they
have not seen.

Besides, there are many Plays, both Comick and Morall,
which figure out things that never were, only to make use
and benefit of the example: That men may thereby the bet-
ter shun Vice, and pursue Virtue. In like manner, this
Book, though it contain but matter of jest and sport, yet if
ye look seriously thereto, ye may haply find much Morall
matter and wisdom, worthy your consideration. Goodnes,
nor any Good man shall ye find in it disreputed, for all things
are generally spoke, and every man may take his own part as
his conscience shall so instruct him: if any man find himself
too much oppressed, let him shake it off with amendment. If
any man be clear, let him hold on his path, and avoid stum-
bling: And if any take distast or offence, let him not
blame me, but the Fox, for it is only his Language. But if
all things suit to my wished imaginations, I shall then be
encouraged to salute the world with a second part, clad in
some nearer English, daunger matter, and if not more, yet
every whit as pleasant Moralls.

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